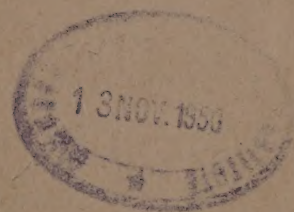


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ITALIAN..... 23.50-00.53

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M. 16.9 - 19.5 - 25.2

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

THE FAO EUROPEAN
BULLETIN No. 3

July — September 1950

THIRD YEAR

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION
OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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DIET OF SCHOOLCHILDREN AND STUDENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS

by Dr **C den HARTOG**

Director of the Information Centre of the Food and Nutrition Board in the Netherlands

There is a great difference between the diet of schoolchildren and that of students. In the Netherlands, children live at home and take their meals with the family. Students very rarely live at home and have their meals in boarding-houses, at their students' clubs, or at cheap restaurants or cafeterias.

Schoolchildren may be divided into two groups: those aged 6-14 years attending primary schools, and those from 14 to 19 years attending secondary schools. After that age they become students. A universal system of supplying school-meals such as is known in many countries, does not exist in the Netherlands. Only the primary schools are provided for under legal regulations. Under Article 36 of the Compulsory Education Act, 'Food and clothes shall only be provided for children who do not, or do not regularly attend school owing to lack of clothes, or who will probably be unable to continue to attend school regularly without the provision of food or clothes. Food and clothes shall only be supplied direct to the children themselves'.

In practice, children whose general health may be expected to improve with extra food receive meals at school on the advice of the school doctor. Such meals are entirely voluntary and are paid for according to the financial position of the parents. Compulsory school meals have little prospect of success in the Netherlands as it is generally held that the school cannot take the place of the family. The child's family should see that it is properly fed.

School meals are mainly provided in the big towns. In country districts the preparation of the food presents difficulties. In the

towns the food is prepared in so-called schoolchildren's kitchens and is conveyed from there to the schools. School meals are chiefly provided at Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague, Utrecht and Groningen. The number of schoolchildren attending primary schools in Amsterdam and The Hague is 104,950 and 75,419 respectively. In 1949, 3,600 and 1,000 children respectively benefited by the scheme in these two towns. No meals are provided at secondary schools.

Generally speaking there is little uniformity in the different towns as regards the composition of the meals. Through the activities of the Information Centre of the Food Board an attempt is being made to serve meals providing adequate nourishment. The average school meal (hot) contains:

Calories	Proteins g.	Ca g.	Fe mg.	Vitamins				
				A I.U.	B ₁ mg.	B ₂ mg.	Niacin mg.	Vit. C mg.
840	32	0.7	6	4800	0.8	0.9	5	35

The meals consist of meat, potatoes and vegetables. The drinking of milk at school is not included in the present school meals scheme. Various committees exist which encourage the drinking of milk at school. Children are under no obligation to partake of school milk. The parents usually pay the cost price, but frequently also pay according to income. The milk is pasteurized in bottles and drunk through a straw. In 1948 milk was supplied in 74 municipalities, the total consumption being 9,099,861 litres.

Generally speaking the health of Dutch schoolchildren is good. The setback caused

by the war has now been made good and the children's weight and heights have again reached their pre-war level.

As regards the food taken by students, no accurate investigation as to the amount and the nature of their diet has been made in the Netherlands.

In 1946 the Bureau of Statistics in Amsterdam investigated the income and expenditure of 96 students in Amsterdam during the period 18 February - 14 April. This investigation was, however, not followed up by an investigation into the amount of food consumed daily.

Considering the special conditions under which students live, a survey of the amount and the nature of the food consumed would certainly be useful. There is no reason to fear a lack of calories, as these may be obtained fairly cheaply. Taking into consideration the manner in which a student lives, it is not unlikely, however, that his diet is deficient in animal proteins, calcium and vitamin B₂.

In 1941-1942 an investigation was made which gives an outline of the dietary habits of students in Amsterdam over a period of three years. The results of the investigation were published in 'Medisch Contact' 3 (1948), pp. 661-667 and 681-698.

The height of the students exceeded that usually taken as an average in the Netherlands (average in the Netherlands - male 1.70 m; female 1.60 m.); of the men examined only 6 % were under 1.70 m.; 90 % varied between 1.70 m. and 1.90 m.; only 12 % of the women were under 1.60 m.; 91 % of the male students weighed between 50 and 70 kg. No correlation between weight and height was worked out.

In 1941-1942 there was no question of inadequate nutrition among students. The width of the chest of the men with lungs inflated to the maximum (85 - 100 cm.) exceeded that of the average member of the Dutch population; when deflated the width was 80 - 90 cm., the difference being 5 - 10 cm., which is in accordance with additional data on this point.

The percentage of haemoglobin was established by the Sahli method for 339 male and 129

female students. The number of men with a smaller percentage of haemoglobin than 13 g. per 100 cc. of blood was 9 %; with women this figure was 47 %.

The total percentage of proteins was determined for 83 men and 51 women; the albumin-globulin percentage for 73 men and 44 women by Howe's method. The range of the results as regards the total percentage of proteins was so great that there could hardly be any question of a normal average. Taking 6 % as the limit of a normal average, this would include 9 men and 2 women; taking the lowest normal level for the percentage of albumin at 4 %, this would include 1 man and 4 women.

The vitamin A percentage of the blood was estimated for 264 men and 105 women; the carotene percentage for 267 men and 104 women, the vitamin C percentage for 236 men and 74 women.

19 % of the men and 23 % of the women had a vitamin A percentage of less than 4 I.U. per 10 cc. of blood serum; 16 % of the men and 15 % of the women had a vitamin C percentage of less than 4 mg. per litre of blood.

Little is known of the effects of the war on students.

Both during and after the war extra food was provided for students, because:

- (a) Only a few students can find boarding-houses;
- (b) Restaurant meals are too expensive for a great number;
- (c) Restaurant meals do not always contain sufficient nourishment;
- (d) It is in the nature of the student to be careless about his health.

These extra rations are issued to the students' canteens and clubs. Not all universities have a canteen, many students preferring to take their meals at their own clubs rather than at the canteen. The canteens are usually endowed.

Every day details are dealt with by an administrative Board whose term of office lasts 6 months. Professors and students are members of the Supervisory Board, and a manager is in charge of all arrangements.

There is a Fund which amongst other things enables poorer students to obtain free meals.

The Central Bureau of Statistics made a survey of the geographical origin of students, their fathers' professions, the university education of the parents, the number of working students, students' allowances, living conditions and feeding of students, clublife and expenses during the academic year 1946-1947.

Data regarding 20,063 students (77 %) were studied. 57 % of the students answering the questions were living in rooms in their university town, 26 % travelled by rail to and from the university and 17 % were living with their parents (in their university town).

As regards the students' meals it was asked :

(a) whether a hot meal was taken daily ;

(b) how many hot meals were consumed on an average during a normal week (including the week-end).

22 % of the students answered the first question in the negative. The situation is more unfavourable for students living in rooms, as 33 % of this category do not have a daily hot meal.

Further data regarding universities are given in Table 1. This Table shows that the differences are considerable.

TABLE I. Number and percentage of students per university who have no daily hot meal.

University	No. of students living in rooms	% of whom have no daily hot meal	No. of other students	% of whom have no daily hot meal	Total no. of students	Total % who have no daily hot meal
Leyden	1,922	41	1,032	6	2,954	29
Utrecht	2,615	32	1,213	3	3,828	23
Groningen	817	18	580	12	1,397	11
Amsterdam (Municipal U.)	1,794	34	2,019	4	3,813	18
Amsterdam (Free U.)	267	33	254	4	521	19
Nijmegen	330	36	204	4	534	24
Delft	3,061	32	1,442	5	4,503	23
Wageningen	853	38	65	—	918	36
Rotterdam	422	28	593	4	1,015	13
Tilburg	354	17	226	6	580	13
Total	12,435	33	7,628	4	20,063	22

On an average, lower class students skip their hot meal less frequently than middle and upper class students : 73 % of the stu-

dents from the lower classes have a daily hot meal at home.

An enquiry was made as to whether students felt the need of a university canteen. Table II gives the results.

TABLE II. Percentage of students per university desiring a student hostel and a university canteen.

	Students' Hostel	University canteen
Leyden	23	42
Utrecht	21	1
Groningen	28	26
Amsterdam, Municipal University	20	1
Amsterdam, Free University	19	1
Nijmegen	22	3 2
Delft	21	34
Wageningen	27	22
Rotterdam	25	19
Tilburg	32	1
Total	22	18

¹ Canteen already established.

² Idem, but only for male students.

It is extremely probable that the phenomenon of students having insufficient hot meals is partly due to their unfavourable financial position, but mainly to the small number of boarding-houses and to their own carelessness.

From an enquiry held by the Information Centre of the Food Board into the composition and preparation of students' hot meals, it appeared that both the composition and preparation of meals at clubs and at the canteen left much to be desired. Generally speaking, canteen meals were better than club meals, although in some clubs the food was good. It was found that students and Governors of Universities alike are becoming more interested both in students' meals and in the progressive improvement of their diet.

The Information Centre of the Food Board has supplied the canteens with specimen menus for good, cheap meals. These meals contain :

Calories	Proteins g.		Fat g.	Carbohydrate g.	Ca mg.	P mg.	Fe mg.	Vitamins				
	Veg.	Anim.						A I.U.	B ₁ γ	B ₂ mg.	Niacin mg.	C mg.
1470	26	17	35	227	678	1044	10.4	824	996	—	—	109

The students have a good Health Service. It is difficult to ascertain whether the general health of students differs from that of the average Dutch population of the same age. Heynsius van den Bergh has worked out the figures for tuberculosis for the writer of this article. In 1947 and 1948, 3.6 fresh cases per 1000 men and women between 20 and 30 years of age occurred in Amsterdam. The figure for students was 4.9. We may not,

however, draw too far-reaching conclusions from these figures.

The feeding and general health of school-children and students continues to have the attention of the Netherlands authorities. The Information Centre of the Food Board regularly gives widespread advice through radio, newspapers and other publicity channels with regard to the composition and preparation of their diet.

APROPOS OF AN FAO REPORT ON DIETARY SURVEYS

by
J. TRÉMOLIÈRES

Chief, Nutrition Section, 'Institut
national d'Hygiène', Paris

Continuing the studies it has so effectively undertaken, the Nutrition Division of FAO recently published a report on 'Dietary Surveys - Their technique and interpretation'.

The monograph prepared by Professor Bigwood for the Health Organization of the League of Nations in 1939 proved a valuable aid to workers undertaking such surveys during the last war. The report of the FAO Nutrition Division, drawn up for the greater part by Thelma Norris, was based on experience and results obtained from 1940 to 1948.

I.

The short introduction recalls that the Conference of FAO in Quebec defined one of the tasks of the new international organization as the 'developing and standardizing of methods of investigating food consumption so that accurate and comparable data may be obtained'.

The first chapter deals with the purposes of dietary surveys

'The starting point toward raising levels of nutrition must be a knowledge of what people eat, how far existing diets are satisfactory, and what the basic causes of inadequacy are.' (page 3).

It is a question, therefore, of improving health standards through improved diet, namely, of ascertaining the type of diet, assessing its adequacy and improving it.

The second chapter is headed 'General considerations' (pp. 6-24).

Planning and organization depend on the type of survey (surveys covering the entire population of a country or town, a social unit), the type of information required (food habits, general or very precise estimates), and on the funds and facilities available.

The type of sampling to aim at is random sampling of each of the homogeneous groups making up the population. The errors which so easily arise for want of precise details on the stage of consumption of the products (at the retailer - raw - refuse - edible part - calculation of waste) should be carefully avoided.

The interpretation of results (pp. 20-22) is based on comparison with dietary standards or recommended dietary allowances.

Attention is called to a report of an FAO expert committee which gives the calorie requirements of 'reference individuals' with adjustments for different factors.

Chapter III presents dietary survey methods, in particular the inventory or log-book method

and the food list method. The latter method, less precise, is indicated in surveys on the average consumption levels of population groups. Survey techniques are analysed and specimens of log books, stock sheets, schedules and record forms are given.

Chapter IV describes treatment of the dietary survey data - tabulation, evaluation, interpretation and analysis of factors affecting diet (size and composition of families, place of residence, income, expenditure on food).

Chapter V concerns dietary surveys in underdeveloped areas.

This report states very precisely the findings on which the majority of investigators are agreed since the war.

II

Besides these findings which the FAO report serves a very useful purpose in presenting, I should like to call attention to some problems which arose in the course of survey experience in Latin countries.

1. — CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING THE QUALITY OF FOOD

The main object in dietary surveys is to assess the quality of food so as to correct any deficiencies. Now the definition of the quality of a food can only be based on 'recommended allowances' or the 'calorie requirements of reference individuals' to the extent it has been possible to ascertain that these allowances were effectively those which assured the optimum nutritional status. Consequently, the quality of a food can only be assessed if the quality of a nutritional status can be ascertained. To speak of good diet before defining what is meant by a good nutritional status is 'to put the cart before the horse'.

It is probable that the conceptions of nutritional status on which the definition of standards was based differed appreciably.

First of all there is what can be called the 'common sense' concept. The consumption levels of a population when 'well nourished' were considered satisfactory since the people

were satisfied. Thus the pre-war consumption levels in France were amply taken into account in determining recommended allowances*.

A marked advance over this idea consists in measuring very accurately the food intake of individuals who have been examined and recognized as being in a good state of health.

It may be criticized that it is not at all certain that a diet which satisfies a people is a good diet. For instance, in France there is at present an increase in the consumption of meat which satisfies the people but which is not approved in general by medical authorities.

There is also the physiological conception of nutritional requirements. Thus the calorie requirement may be theoretically determined by adding together the various food requirements. Since, however, certain requirements such as work requirements depend precisely on the amount of calorie intake, the method can merely give approximate results.

For the nitrogen requirement the physiological conception of food requirements would result in allowing only 30 grams of proteins per day per adult or even much less if the amino acid balance is well established. In countries considered as civilized, protein consumption is three to four times higher.

Therefore an endeavour was made to define a nutritional status on positive bases. The nutritionists who devised this method, having chiefly had experience in countries of the colonial type where diseases were known to be of a nutritional origin, evolved the 'deficiency' concept of the nutritional status. Slight clinical symptoms of avitaminosis, the study of biologic constants, surcharge tests, constitute the criteria. But the experience of the last war showed that, while there are nutritional circumstances where these tests are of undoubted value, under other conditions they are not. Thus in countries in western Europe slight clinical symptoms of avitaminosis were rarely found to be specific and only in exceptional cases were due to vitamin deficiencies. The biologic constants were either extremely con-

* Transactions of the 'Institut national d'Hygiène'.

stant or difficult to specify (vitamin A and serous carotene) or else merely reflected the nutrition of a few days previous (vitamin C).

The deficiency concept of the state of nutrition is probably adequate under experiment conditions where by repeated plasmapheresis associated with protein fasting, hypoproteinemia is practically certain to result, and also under conditions when the diet is rich in calories but deficient in an essential element (rice or maize diet).

The principles appropriate for defining nutritional status in European countries still have to be established. Undoubtedly the nutrition experts have plenty of facts and ideas on the matter, but it seemed to me important to stress that, until now, as these principles are not precise, any decision on the quality of a diet is a mere subjective estimation which is ultimately only based on the experience of those who make it. Finding principles or concepts valid for judging a state of nutrition is one of the most pressing objectives.

II.

If these preliminary remarks may seem negative it is because I think dietary surveys in countries like France have an importance which the FAO publication has not made clear, namely, the study of the factors which govern the dietary habits of a population.

For instance, in Brittany the peasant's diet consists mainly of bread, pork, butter (70 g. per day per caput) and potatoes. This diet is on a par with the farming system by which the peasant raises a few cows. Making butter from the milk which he is not organized to sell in the form of milk or cheese, he feeds the by-products of butter production to pigs. If this type of diet, open to criticism from many standpoints, is to be changed, the farming system of the region will also have to be changed.

Another example : in a survey on the miners of Saint Etienne we saw that the families without children spent the most on food, having a diet which was 15 per cent. higher in calories and proteins than the National Re-

search Council standards, while the families with two or or more children balanced their diet at less cost by means of bread and milk. In childless families wine accompanied a very rich diet, while when a considerable quantity of wine was consumed in families with two or more children, it was separately without eating more. The psycho-sociological meaning of these facts is likely to orient the social and economic policy.

Besides their strictly nutritional importance dietary surveys have a sociological aspect which may also be of practical utility.

These surveys now play an important part in determining what is called the 'vital minimum', in adjusting family or economically weak allowances.

If I have ventured to treat at greater length these two points : 'want of principles or concepts for evaluating the quality of diets in European countries', and 'sociological importance of consumption levels' it was because they seem to me to be the basis of the practical possibilities of carrying out such surveys in countries like France.

As a matter of fact, the financing of these difficult surveys can only be obtained from the State ; the statesman asks if the diet of the population is good or bad and what should be done to improve it. The consumption levels now recorded in countries like France, in general are such that nothing can be said about them, for want of adequate standards for judging more accurately the state of nutrition.

With a calcium intake of 600 mg. or 1,000 gamma of vitamin B₂, is one justified in asking for changes in farming and economic policy ? A superabundant country can take this liberty. Poorer countries will find the arguments of nutritionists insufficient to change habits which have prevailed for centuries.

In other words, the 'public health' aspect of surveys is very frequently relegated to the field of research, for which it will often be difficult to find the requisite funds.

The social and economic importance of dietary surveys, on the contrary, is becoming increasingly evident to statesmen (vital minimum, difficult economic conditioning of dietary habits, etc.) and in many countries I

think that the financing of these surveys can only be obtained on this basis.

III.

To my mind there are two practical aspects to dietary surveys in Latin countries, namely :

- (1) sampling problems ;
- (2) the value of surveys effected by interview.

1. — SAMPLING PROBLEMS

The social structure of countries like France at present is mobile and very complex. Factors of classification such as income are practically impossible to obtain to permit balloting, or else differ too greatly in meaning. The income of a family which has some land to cultivate is not comparable to an identical income of a family living in a hotel, or to that of a janitor having two trades. In some instances the 'exceptions' are so numerous that the sampling method proposed by FAO is not suitable. A preliminary analysis of the factors of variation is required, and the meaning of 'income' and 'occupation' in the group to be surveyed.

This analysis requires rather numerous enquiries among a group which may be taken as homogeneous, so as to study the factors

which may really engender homogeneous groups and to obtain an adequate definition of these factors.

2. — VALUE OF SURVEYS EFFECTED BY INTERVIEW

The most practical survey methods (food list methods) do not utilize objective weighings but the estimates of the housewife as to the quantities of foodstuffs she buys or consumes. To take a comparison borrowed from BUGSON ; instead of measuring the time with a chronometer, extensive use is made of people's idea of the time. The margin between these two types of calculation may be reduced but it is unknown and can vary according to racial mental habits.

Studies on this point would also be necessary.

The search for a method adapted to European food conditions suitable for assessing nutritional status now seems to be the basic objective to be attained in order that dietary surveys may render the fundamental service for which they are made.

'Improve the people's health ; reduce the misery caused by poor diet' - this seems to me to be the indirect conclusion obtained on reading the excellent report of the Nutrition Division of FAO.

HYBRID MAIZE IN EUROPE

prepared by the Division of Agriculture, FAO, Washington

The organized effort to bring hybrid maize into the 'maize belts' of Europe is an excellent example of what can be accomplished with a limited amount of money and with a great deal of cooperation.

Believing that hybrid maize could substantially increase food production in their countries, as it has in the United States, plant breeders from many European research sta-

tions decided at an FAO meeting in the late summer of 1947 to carry out the experimental work necessary for the introduction of hybrid maize on a sound basis.

FAO undertook to make available technical knowledge about hybrid maize, to send material for testing, and to publish and distribute reports of each year's work. Seed samples for testing were furnished by the U.S. De-

partment of Agriculture, agricultural experiment stations, and interested seedsmen in the United States and Canada.

EXTENT OF THE PROGRAM IN 1949

In 1949, the second year of this program, comparative trials of hybrid maize were made at more than one hundred centers in eighteen countries of Europe and the Near East. Under the direction of a central experiment station, testing fields were located in the major maize-producing areas of each participating country. As in the previous year, the co-operators met for a few days at the end of the growing season to study the results of the experimental work, to consult on problems, and to make plans for continuing the trials during the next year.

A full report on the results of the 1949 hybrid maize trials is given in a new FAO publication, *Results of Cooperative Hybrid Maize Tests in Europe, 1949*. Some highlights of that report are given here.

1949 GROWING SEASON

Climatic conditions during the 1949 maize growing season were reported as unusual over most of Europe. It was exceptionally warm and dry in England and in the western and southwestern parts of Europe, with severe drought in some sections of France. Northern Germany and Austria reported unusually cool weather during the first part of the growing season, followed by warm weather which extended unusually late into the autumn. In Greece the season was cooler than usual, with more than normal rainfall, and in Yugoslavia the summer was dry, with exceptionally cool weather in July and August. In Egypt, where maize is normally planted in July, the growing season was relatively cool.

PESTS AND DISEASES

As was to be expected, some of the plantings were damaged by various pests and plant diseases. In Belgium the trial plantings were almost destroyed by birds and rabbits. In the Netherlands, one field had to be discarded

because of inroads by birds. In England, rooks, invariably a menace to maize plantings, again took toll of the experiment plots. At one location in France there was serious damage by the corn wireworm and at another by the disease *Giberella*. Austria reported damage from cutworms, wireworms, ground squirrels, and hamsters. In the subalpine regions of Italy a sudden outbreak of dwarfing disease caused serious losses in yield. The corn borer reduced yields, especially of the late maturing hybrids in Greece, where smut was noticed in irrigated fields. In Egypt many crops, including maize, were attacked by cotton leaf worm and stem borers.

MATURITY PERIOD

The number of days required for hybrid maize to attain mature growth and produce ripe grain in the different localities is of interest. In the Netherlands, which is relatively far north for grain maize, the hybrids tested required a growing period 70 to 80 days longer than in their accustomed environment. On the other hand, in Egypt, the southernmost testing region, hybrid maize matured in a shorter time than that indicated by the U.S. maturity ratings. Results of this kind are to be expected, as the growth of the maize plant is conditioned to a large extent by length of day and temperature.

HYBRID MAIZE FOR SILAGE AND FODDER

In the northern European countries the chief interest in hybrid maize was for silage and fodder, as other cereal crops are better adapted for grain production. As far north as Sweden, trials over several years had indicated that early-maturing hybrid maize might well be used for green fodder production in the central and southern parts of the country. Denmark tried hybrid maize entirely for the production of silage and compared it with fodder sugar beet for this purpose. In Western Germany, where a large land area is given over to the production of silage, some of the maize hybrids gave high yields. In Switzerland and Austria also, hybrid maize

was tried for feed, particularly as silage. Exceptionally high yields of green matter were recorded in Austria, when hybrid maize was superior to the local varieties in resistance to lodging.

Stations in several other countries also began experimental work with hybrid maize for fodder. It is expected that greater interest in this will develop in the future, as in most European countries there has so far been very little information on the potentialities of hybrid maize as fodder.

HYBRID MAIZE FOR GRAIN

In England, where very early maturing maize is necessary for grain production, there was an extensive survey of early-maturing hybrids and varieties. Two new Canadian hybrids seemed most promising for silage production because of their leafy growth, and three-way crosses from the state of Maine (U.S.A.) gave the best grain yields.

In France, hybrid maize seemed more resistant to drought than the local varieties. Hybrids within the U.S. maturity ratings of 80-110 days have given best results throughout France so far.

Italy reported that hybrid maize had given increases in yield of 24 percent over the country as a whole.

In Greece nine of the maize hybrids tested have consistently yielded higher than the local varieties. Three of these have maturity ratings of 80-100 days, and six, of 100-135 days.

Hybrids showed a good yield potential compared with local varieties in Yugoslavia, and the late-maturing hybrids gave best results.

In Egypt a local single cross gave the highest yield in the 1949 trials. However, four of the late-maturing hybrids yielded almost as

well. The experimental work there is chiefly concerned with white hybrids, as yellow maize does not appeal to the Egyptian market.

MAIZE BREEDING

At the beginning of the program the co-operators were furnished seed of the inbred lines that constituted the maize hybrids being tested, in order that they might take the initial steps in a maize-breeding program. The local production of hybrid maize from native varieties and imported foundation stock was begun as an objective at several stations. In the Netherlands, more than 150 different combinations of single crosses were made in 1949 from these inbred lines and local varieties. As a part of the breeding program, 42 of the single crosses made the previous year were put under comparative test in 1949, the best of these to be used in producing double crosses in 1950.

SUMMARY

It may be said, then, that the trials so far have given valuable clues to the adaptation of hybrid maize in many different sections of Europe, and have shown that well-adapted hybrid maize will give substantially increased yields of grain. Continued testing, free interchanges of information and improved seed among collaborators, together with close consultation on points of common interest, should extend the benefits of hybrid maize throughout Europe.

In the words of Jonathan Swift, 'Whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together.'

CULTIVATION IN DENMARK OF BEETS RICH IN DRY MATTER

by **AXEL PEDERSEN**

THE SIZE OF THE AREAS GROWN TO ROOT CROPS

The cultivation of roots for winter feeding of cattle, particularly for dairy stock, has for many years been an important link in Danish plant production. The cultivation of roots gained headway in the eighties. From 20,000 ha. in 1881, the area grown to forage roots rose in the course of 50 years to 412,000 ha. in 1930, and has since then remained fairly constant with slight fluctuations only.

Forage roots occupy 16 or 17 % of the cultivated area of the country, and when to this is added about 50,000 ha. with sugar beets for sugar production, and roughly 100,000 ha. with potatoes, the aggregate area devoted to root crops is well over 550,000 ha., corresponding to about 20 % of the cultivated area, meaning that in an 8 year rotation, which is the most frequent rotation in this country, 1.6 fields are grown to root crops. In farms with large areas cultivated to potatoes or sugar beets for factories, there are frequently 2 fields with root crops or more in the rotation, while there is frequently only one in the other farms of the country.

ROOT SPECIES

Turnips and carrots have played an important part from olden times, but beets (belonging to the species *Beta vulgaris*) and swedes came into favour later, and these species have since the beginning of this century taken up an equal proportion of the root area. Beetroots have been predominant in the Danish islands and on the fertile soil in Eastern Jutland, swedes on the lighter soils, particularly in the northern parts of Jutland, but there is no sharp division between the two species, and many farmers cultivate the two crops side by side.

The fodder beets are divided into three groups: mangels with 11 - 15 % dry matter, fodder sugar beets with 15 - 20 % dry matter, and sugar beets with 20 - 22 % dry matter. These groups are not quite distinct and overlapping occurs.

The mangels with low percentage of dry matter were predominant up to 1930, and the fodder sugar beets and sugar beets for fodder occupied insignificant areas only. A decisive change has taken place in this respect. The area devoted to fodder sugar beets has been extended from 5,000 ha. in 1930 to 118,000 in 1949, while the area devoted to mangels at the same time has gone down from 148,000 to 47,000 ha. The areas under sugar beets for fodder have been somewhat extended and amounted to 23,000 ha. in 1949.

The mangels cultivated are almost all of the Barres type, an oval root, easily lifted, of orange colour with a comparatively small top. The content of dry matter has frequently been from 11 to 13 %, but strains with 13 to 15 % have been on the market in recent years. Fodder sugar beets, generally produced by crossing Barres with sugar beets, are as a rule more cone-shaped and sit deeper in the soil. Sugar beets for fodder differ but slightly in appearance from the real sugar beets.

WHY HAS THE CULTIVATION OF BEETROOTS WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF DRY MATTER BEEN GREATLY EXTENDED AT THE COST OF THOSE OF LOW PERCENTAGE?

The wide increase in recent years in the cultivation of beetroots with a high percentage is due to different factors. Feeding experiments undertaken around 1930 have shown that, measured in terms of feed

units, bigger rations can be used in the daily feeding with roots of a high percentage than with roots of a low percentage. This is of particular interest in the feeding of high yielding milk cows, but the species rich in dry matter are also best suited for pigs and horses. Further: the smaller bulk of the varieties with a high content reduces cost of transportation. It should be added that the species with a high percentage have been superior with regard to yield. In the experiments they have generally given from 3 to 6 quintals (100 kg.) per ha. more dry matter in the root than Barres, and at the same time the top is bigger and more valuable. This latter factor has, particularly of recent years, been given a good deal of weight. The use of the root top for feeding in a fresh state at the time of lifting in the autumn, and as silage in the winter feed, had gained some extension already in the thirties, and during the protein scarcity in the forties the importance of the tops greatly increased. The species with a high percentage have as a rule not only a bigger but also a fresher top than those of the Barres roots, a fact which has contributed to their popularity.

It is true that beets with a high percentage have also less attractive qualities. They sit firmer in the soil than those with a low percentage, and as they are more branching, more soil remains attached to the roots on lifting. Mechanization of lifting and a more general cleaning of the beets have diminished these drawbacks somewhat. By mechanical lifting, the solid rootage of the species with a high percentage is even an advantage, as it makes topping possible while the root is in the soil.

THE PROTEIN YIELD OF BEETROOTS WITH LOW AND HIGH PERCENTAGE

The total content of nitrogen in root and top shows little difference in the varieties with low and in those of high percentage. On the other hand, there is as a rule a marked difference in the distribution of the

nitrogen in root and top and the quantity of different nitrogen compounds. In the varieties with a high percentage and big tops a comparatively large proportion of the nitrogen is found in the top. A certain amount of the nitrogen in the root is generally present in the form of valueless nitrates, but the varieties with a low percentage and a small top have a considerably larger content than those with a high percentage and a big top. Provided that the biological value of the compounds other than nitrates is uniform, the total protein value will be higher in those with a high percentage. But so far it has no doubt been of greater importance that the quantity and quality of the tops of the beets with a high percentage to a higher degree encourage better harvesting, storing and use of the top so that the protein of these is utilized to a greater extent.

THE RECOGNIZED STRAINS OF FORAGE BEETS

The beet strains in Denmark as early as 1900 underwent a thorough testing at the State Experiment Stations for Plant Culture. The experiments are carried out in series extending over 4 years and are in most cases undertaken at from 6 to 10 experiment stations. A new experiment series is started every 6th year. The best strains receive recognition as 1st Class and are designated by a Roman numeral denoting the experiment series concerned. The 10th series strain experiment with forage beets was carried through in 1944 - 47. Out of 25 participating strains, 13 were recognized as 1st Class: 4 strains of Barres, 6 of fodder sugar beets and 3 of sugar beets for fodder. The value of these strains is indicated in the table on the next page.

The classification is based mainly on yield of dry matter in the root, but increasing importance is also attached to the yield of dry matter in the top.

The four Barres strains are all plump, oval roots of orange colour. The six strains of forage sugar roots are all more cone-shaped,

*Strain experiments with fodder beets 1944-47.
The State Crop Experiment Station.*

	Quintals dry matter per ha.		Quintals per ha.		Per cent. dry matter		Smooth- ness	Ease of lifting
	root	top	root	top	root	top		
0 = poor 10 = excellent								
<i>Barres</i>								
øtøfte Nova X	98.6	30.0	651	236	15.1	12.7	7.1	7.9
Ferritslev X	97.6	27.4	841	219	11.6	12.5	7.3	8.3
Øtøfte X	97.4	26.6	688	211	14.2	12.6	7.6	8.2
Strynø X	96.8	29.1	816	231	11.9	12.6	7.9	8.4
<i>Fodder sugar beets</i>								
Red øtøfte X	104.5	31.3	595	243	17.6	12.9	6.0	6.1
Yellow øtøfte X . . .	102.9	30.5	585	244	17.6	12.5	5.4	5.4
Yellow Dano X . . .	102.5	31.6	651	253	15.7	12.5	5.3	5.7
White Tystøfte X . .	101.8	33.0	595	250	17.1	13.2	5.7	5.1
Pajbjerg Rex X . . .	100.7	36.7	528	278	19.1	13.2	4.2	4.3
White Strynø X . . .	103.7	26.1	712	207	14.6	12.6	4.2	4.4
<i>Sugar beets for fodder</i>								
Hinderupgaard X . . .	103.3	34.8	504	242	20.5	14.4	2.4	2.4
Hunsballe X	102.0	35.1	502	260	20.3	13.5	3.8	2.9
Pajbjerg X	100.9	37.8	482	272	20.9	13.9	2.7	2.4

but with a considerable variation in form and length. The colour of the roots in three strains is white with green crowns, in two strains yellow to orange, and in one strain deep red. The three strains of sugar beets for fodder are closely allied to the factory root in appearance, but are slightly plumper and project a little higher up in the ground, so that the crown is often green.

The results of the experiments 1944-47 were published in the spring of 1948. Propagation of the recognized strains will follow soon, and the new strains will replace the recognized strains from the preceding experiment series. Only recognized strains will be generally used in cultivation.

ITEMS OF INFORMATION



AGRICULTURE

Working party for Europe on land and water conservation and utilization

A permanent international working party for Europe (including Cyprus and the French North African territories) on land and water conservation and utilization was suggested at a meeting of European Experts on Land and Water Conservation and Utilization, held at Amsterdam 19-21 July. The suggested permanent working party, organized to ensure continuity of action in its fields of interest, would be concerned with all aspects of the subject. As suggested, it would be formed in two regional subsections — a northern and a southern group — on both of which certain countries with interests in both regions might be represented. The working party should meet as a rule at least once every two years, more frequently if necessary. On occasion, a meeting might be called to consider a designated single aspect of land and water utilization and conservation.

The suggested permanent working party should not be a sub-committee of the FAO European Committee on Agricultural Technology, since the latter deals only with problems in the more restricted field of agricultural technology.

The Amsterdam meeting, held under the auspices of FAO, was attended by delegates of 11 European governments: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Observers attended from Spain, Western Germany, and the United States of America. Professor C.H. Edelman (the Netherlands) was elected Chairman. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the progress made since the previous meeting organized in this field by FAO at Florence in 1948. The meeting recommended that FAO call the attention of governments to a number of problems, both national and international, on which action is required. These recommendations are embodied in the forthcoming report.

A world-wide survey of the incidence of soil erosion, a current undertaking of FAO with funds from the Conservation Foundation, was explained to the meeting by Dr V. Ignatieff of FAO's Agriculture Division. The meeting passed the following resolution on this subject:

The Meeting takes note of the fact that FAO is now preparing a world-wide map on the incidence of soil erosion, expresses appreciation of the value of such a map in acquainting the public with the nature of this problem, and is confident that each European country will be anxious to provide FAO with the data required for this map when requested.

Funds for the survey are being made available to FAO for the cartographic work on a continent-by-continent basis; the first grant was for North and South America. Thanks to generous co-operation of the countries concerned, information for the North American erosion map is nearly complete. Soil scientists of individual countries are making data available in three categories: 1. Slight or no erosion; 2. Moderate erosion; 3. Severe erosion.

Cartographic work on information from European countries will begin when funds are made available to FAO for this purpose. In the meantime, FAO is ready to supply information on methodology to soil scientists of any European country desiring to initiate work in the immediate future.

Current problems of crop production in Great Britain

BROADCAST BY MR TOM WILLIAMS, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, SUNDAY, 23 JULY 1950 AT 1.10 P.M.

'I want to talk to you for a few minutes chiefly about cereal crops. In the last year there have been one or two developments that you should know about, and I want to correct one or two wrong impressions that seem to be getting about.

'In the autumn of 1949 I asked County Agricultural Executive Committees, together with the local Branches of the National Farmers' Union, to look at the progress being made towards our cropping targets, especially for wheat, and to let me know what were the main obstacles in our way. And here is a summary of what they told me.

'First, they said that in some of the eastern counties, where the tillage area is already high, there was some danger of overcropping with wheat.

'Secondly, they put to me strongly that in the western hilly areas, and in the mainly dairying counties, food production would be greater if farmers could concentrate on a grass and livestock policy, while aiming to grow most of their own feeding-stuffs.

'Thirdly, they told me that in a large group of counties — most but not all in the Midlands — which have a tradition of grassland and stock fattening, there were two main obstacles. Farmers were reluctant to keep up a high tillage acreage in peace time, inevitable though it had been in the war. And there was a feeling in their minds that this campaign for high tillage would not last: in other words, they feared that if they spent money on equipment for grain drying, housing and so on, to deal with a corn acreage which was not to be permanent, they might be left in the lurch later on.

'When we added up the answers from all the different regions it was pretty clear that from 1951 onwards we should not get the wheat targets in full on a voluntary basis, which is the basis we all want. I reported this to my colleagues in the Government and naturally we paid great attention to the views of the practical men who had investigated the problem on the spot. Fortunately I was also able to report an upward trend in the yield per acre of wheat; and by taking this into account we felt we could reduce the target for the United Kingdom by 200,000 acres, that is from 2,750,000 to 2,550,000. A little simple arithmetic will show that if the average yield could be raised to 21½ cwt. per acre — a figure which was exceeded last year — we should get just about as much wheat as if the original target were obtained with an average yield of a ton an acre.

'I do want to make it absolutely clear that there has been no reduction in the national requirement of wheat. It is wanted just as badly, and there is no justification for any loss in our sense of urgency. But we did feel that we must go part way to meet the representations made.

'So, County Agricultural Executive Committees will be receiving very soon revised target acreages for their counties. In many counties the figures have been lowered to those which the Committees and the National Farmers' Union members last autumn thought to be a safe objective. But for a number of the counties which I described as having a grassland tradition, we have felt bound to ask for a higher wheat area than the local people recommended. And in reply to the objection that may be forming in your minds, I can only say this: I am quite certain that, whatever Government is in power, it will be essential to maintain a high tillage area in the country and particularly in the area of which I have been speaking. I emphasize this is a long term policy, and it will mean bringing

into cultivation some of the land originally ploughed up during the war and then allowed to go back to grass. I am sure I can count on the farmers in these areas giving their full backing to the County Agricultural Executive Committees in getting these new acreages. The figures have been discussed with the Committees, and accepted, even though in some counties it has been with certain reservations.

'I now turn for a moment to feeding grains, and I only want to say one thing about them. A short time ago I made an announcement in the House of Commons about rationing. I said that careful enquiries had been made into the possibility of derationing cereal feedingstuffs. That would mean, of course, that not only home grown oats and barley, but also the imported products such as maize, could be freely obtained. I want to see that happen as soon as possible, and I know you do. But, after looking at the supply prospects, and then at the distance we have still to go before some of our livestock targets are reached, we were forced to the conclusion that it was unsafe to abandon rationing at the moment. With rationing we can direct supplies to those stock producers who have to buy most of their feedingstuffs and who cannot grow more for themselves. Whether things will change in the next few years we cannot foretell with any certainty. It depends so much on factors beyond our control. But one thing that we can control is the amount of home grown grain which goes into the ration pool. I mean oats or barley which are surplus to a farmer's own needs and to industrial needs, and which are available for distribution through the trade. The hope of derationing would be much better if there were more, and I do ask you to keep this in mind when making your plans for 1951.

'Now I want to say a word or two about grass, which has been called our most important crop. I mentioned the opinion that in some parts of the country farmers can contribute most by concentrating on grass. That may be true. If so, those farmers have a duty to see that their grassland is properly managed.

'I hope the new subsidy on fertilizers applied to grassland will help in this. The Bill providing for this subsidy has passed through Parliament, and when it becomes an Act I shall issue a scheme to put it into operation.'

The Minister of Agriculture then invited agriculturists to make their requests as soon as possible for the fertilizers they require. Then he closed his talk with the following:

'Lastly, a word to small farmers about the financial help that we promised towards the cost of feedingstuffs when the subsidies were withdrawn. This scheme is nearly ready, and it will date back to 1st May. If you depend on selling milk, eggs, or pigs for your living, keep any receipts for feedingstuffs which you have bought since the beginning of May, because they may be useful'.

Sweden - A farming country

The following particulars have been taken from an illustrated booklet, recently published, on Swedish Farmers' Organizations:

FARMING IN THE NORTH

Sweden lies on the same degree of latitude as Alaska, Greenland and Siberia. However, the warm waters of the Gulf Stream afford Sweden a comparatively mild climate with respect to her northerly position. It is possible, even, to cultivate certain crops in the districts around the Arctic Circle, where the period of vegetation is necessarily very short — but all the more intensive thanks to the prolonged sunshine in the 'Land of the Midnight Sun'. Of course farming districts proper are confined to southern and central Sweden, where agriculture is highly developed. Actually, only one tenth of the entire land area of Sweden is cultivated — the rest is forest and mountains — but agricultural production is sufficient to make the country essentially self-supporting with respect to farm products.

FIELD CROPS

Sweden extends 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) from north to south, and farming conditions thus vary considerably. Southernmost Sweden — 'the fat Scania' — together with the southern part of the west coast, comprises a rich and fertile farming district where wheat, oil plants, sugar beet and two-row-barley are grown on the broad undulating plains. Here, in some instances, the yield per acre is the highest in the world, bearing witness to the efficiency of Swedish farming methods. Part of the area to the north-east of these fertile plains consists of the 'lean Scania' with sandy soil and loose top-sand. Here the main crop is potatoes, most of which are later processed in the starch factories and distilleries of the district.

In central Sweden also there are fertile plains, characterized by the growing of crops and by highly developed cattle farming. However, large areas of southern and central Sweden, consist of rolling forest lands, and valleys where dairy farming predominates. In such areas the main crops produced are fodder and spring grains — mostly oats. Most farms in these districts include profitable forest land as well as cultivable soil.

In northern Sweden, from Hälsingland northward — about two thirds of the length of the country — farming consists mainly of fodder crop production, which often accounts for 70-80% of the cultivated area. Dairy farming predominates, but potatoes and six-row barley are also grown. Forestry is combined with farming in this area, and the farmer often derives his essential cash income from timber or forestry work.

Thus, for many of Sweden's farmers, the forest is the 'fruit of the earth'. Half of the land area consists of forests, 50% of which is owned by the farmers, the remainder being about equally divided between the State and the forest industry companies.

DAIRY CATTLE

The cattle of Sweden consist of three main breeds. The Swedish Red and White is predominant, accounting for some 65% of all animals. This breed is the result of crossing a native breed with Shorthorns and Ayrshires, and is practically the only breed found in central Sweden. In southern Sweden, however, the Swedish Friesian cattle are the main breed. This breed gives a higher yield of milk which, however, has a lower fat content than that from the Red and White. In northern Sweden the stock consists of the Polled or Mountain Cattle, giving a low yield of milk which has a high fat content.

In 1948-49 the quantity of milk produced from recorded herds reached an average of 4,400 kilograms * for the Lowland breed (3.65% fat content, 161 kilograms of butterfat), 3,750 kilograms for the Red and White breed (3.95% fat content, 148 kilograms of butterfat) and 2,875 kilograms for the Polled breed (4.16% fat content, 120 kilograms of butterfat). A butterfat yield of 200 kilograms (440 lb.) is not unusual for the Swedish Red and White and for the Friesian cattle.

Almost a quarter of the milk produced is retained by farmers for household consumption and for feeding, while additional small quantities are used by a few producers for home butter and cheese making. The remainder of the milk is delivered to the dairies. Of this quantity almost one third is processed for direct consumption while the remainder is used for butter and cheese production and to a lesser extent for manufacture of dried milk.

In 1949 there were in Sweden 465,000 horses, 2,600,000 head of cattle, 300,000 head of sheep, 1,200,000 hogs and 12,000,000 hens.

A campaign against bovine tuberculosis and contagious abortion is subsidized not only by the State but also by the meat marketing and dairy societies. Of the entire Swedish stock 95% are now free of tuberculosis, and no more than 2% are infected with contagious abortion.

DIVERSIFICATION

Varied production is characteristic of Swedish farming. Seldom does a farmer specialize on any one product.

The main farm earnings come from milk, grain, eggs, and in southern and central Sweden, from sugar beet and oil plants. The cultivation of oil plants began during the war years and has since developed to such an extent that farms now pro-

* 1 kg. = 2.2 lb.

duce a large portion of the vegetable fat used for margarine production in Sweden. The old butter versus margarine controversy has thus attained a new significance.

MECHANIZATION

Swedish farming is undergoing a constant rationalization which, particularly since the war, has taken the form of a thorough mechanization. The number of tractors in use in recent years has been calculated as 3,000 in 1930, 15,000 in 1939, 20,000 in 1945 and 50,000 in 1949. These figures do not include 5,000 (1945) and 10,000 (1949) '5 and 10 per cent' tractors or trucks. The number of combines is increasing rapidly — in 1939 there were scarcely 100 combines in the country, whereas in 1949 there were 5,000. The value of all machinery amounted to 800 million kroner in 1949.

Rationalization has meant increased production despite less labor. Productivity (calories produced per working hour) has increased by 25% since 1939. Also, the yield from cattle farming and crop cultivation has increased due to improved feeding, breeding and fertilizing, and more careful selection of seed etc.

A LAND OF SMALL HOLDINGS

Such a land is Sweden. Of the 300,000 farms with over 2 hectares** (5 acres) of cultivated soil, two-thirds belong to the 2 to 10 hectare group and cover one third of Sweden's cultivated land area. Farms in the 10 to 15 hectare group account for almost one half of the entire cultivated area, but large farms of over 50 hectares (125 acres) are few.

Sweden's soil is cultivated mainly by farmer-owners. Only one-fifth of the farms are worked by tenant farmers.

AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Swedish Parliament approved, in 1947, the lines to be followed in future farm policy. The goal is a reasonable income level for farm workers, and equality in this regard with other comparable sections of the community. This is to be made possible by rationalization, if necessary by the aid of State measures in the form of import and price regulations. Sweden's self-reliance as regards farm production will be maintained.

As far as rationalization is concerned, it is held that efforts should be directed toward the creation of holdings that will give farmers full employment and ensure reasonable incomes. The old agricultural policy resulted in a number of small holdings which cannot give the farmers and their families reasonable livelihoods and which complicate the use of machinery. Efforts as regards land will be

directed toward the provision of holdings of 10 to 30 hectares (25 to 75 acres) of cultivable land by merging or adding to the insufficient small holdings.

It has been found most desirable that these successive changes in the division of land be coupled with the provision of better technical equipment and farm buildings.

The developments sketched here, which are calculated to take one or two generations to complete, are held to be a problem for agriculture alone. The State authorities may be called upon to supply financial assistance and technical and economic advice in connection with the building up of the enterprise. It is considered necessary for the State to cooperate in the planning of the movement and to lead the development through various branch authorities. The better allocation of real-estate is made possible by certain purchasing rights reserved by the State rationalization authorities in cases where farms are to change hands.

Swedish farming is unable to provide agricultural labor with an income equal to that of other labor groups in every situation that may arise, and under free competition from foreign markets. The State must therefore regulate imports where necessary, and must set a limit for foreign competition.

So far as the unsettled international situation is concerned, it is held that Swedish food production should be maintained at a security level and that agriculture must continue to supply the home market with the necessary staple foods.

Since the rationalization program will naturally require some time to carry through, it has been deemed necessary to provide in the interim a special subsidy for the owners of small holdings who cannot at present obtain a satisfactory livelihood. Thus the producer subsidy, as it is called, is intended to supplement insufficient earnings during the time required for the realization of the program.

THE EXODUS TO THE TOWNS

Ever since industrialization set in, the country population of Sweden has been moving to the towns and to industry in ever-growing numbers. At the turn of the century nearly 3 million people (more than half the total population) were engaged in farming. The agricultural population is now somewhat less than 2 million, or about 25% of the total population. The fact that farm production has increased considerably in the meantime can be attributed to the rationalization and mechanization which has taken place, to the experience gained through research and experimentation in cultivation techniques, plant improvement and breeding, and to the fact that cooperative societies and other enterprises have relieved the farmer of much of his former marketing work, leaving him free to devote more time to production.

** 1 hectare = 2 1/2 acres.

This exodus from country to town has above all thinned out the younger agricultural population, especially the women, so that the older families are not replaced by their younger counterparts. Incidentally this uneven distribution of population between agriculture and industry is causing social problems in the country districts. Neither can industry count on the country as a source of labor in the same degree as in former years.

Swedish farmers have throughout the years enjoyed a highly cherished status of individual freedom and independence. They have not, however, been unmindful of the many advantages to be gained from working together for a common good.

The beginning of farmers' cooperation dates back to the last century, which saw the formation of a number of purely local societies. It was not until about 50 years ago, however, that any of the associations then developing achieved nation-wide magnitude. But irresistibly the movement grew in size and strength, and by 1930 agricultural organization had come of age. There then took place two events of considerable significance and importance. One was a general federating of the various Swedish farmers' cooperatives, and the other was unified organization of the farmers of Sweden.

The two major organizations, the *Federation of Swedish Farmers' Associations*, *Sveriges Lantbruksförbund* (SL) and the *Swedish Farmers' Union*, *Riksförbundet Landsbygdens Folk* (RLF), together promote the interests of the rural section of the Swedish community. Through the former — the largest cooperative movement in the country — the farmers themselves have almost entirely assumed the marketing of agricultural produce. Through the latter the voice of agriculture is heard on matters important to the general welfare of the farmer.

Unified organization, strong solidarity and universal farmer participation are the keynotes of present day agriculture in Sweden.

A program for soil and water management in North Africa

On the occasion of a meeting held on 1 March 1950 the Academy of Agriculture of France discussed the problem raised by the constant increase in the population of North Africa (Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco), whence the necessity of developing additional land by means of reforestation and hydraulic improvements. The members of the Academy present unanimously approved the following resolution: The Meeting — *Considering* that in all French territories of North Africa the demographic increase calls for the expansion of all economic activities and especially in agricultural production; *Considering* that among the requirements for this agricultural expansion — not forgetting the need for the ad-

vancement of the native population — primary importance should be given to operations for improving the natural environment and, in particular, regulating stream channels (reforestation, dams, rational repartition of the available water supply); *Passes the resolution* that — on the lines of the Monnet Plan, modified if necessary — the public authorities take steps to carry into effect as soon as possible, a soil and management program covering all French territories of North Africa and appropriate for meeting the priority needs of agricultural economic management; and among the problems peculiar to Morocco territory, *calls attention* to the urgency of developing the Gharb region and especially of soil and water management in the Ouerrha Valley.

The Gharb region is a plain covering 350,000 hectares of which at least 30,000 ha. are suitable for orange-growing (alluvial soil and absence of frosts to damage the orange trees). The Ouerrha Valley which lies in front of the Gharb region, consists of a plain 60,000 ha. in size, including approximately 20,000 ha. of orange-grove land. Mr Boixo, who had been instructed by the Academy of Agriculture to examine the problem of these plains, is of the opinion that an outlay of 10 milliard francs would permit obtaining an annual average gross income of 43 milliard francs from these two valleys.

The main problem connected with this project is that it is absolutely essential to build dams to control the waters of the Ouerrha which have a maximum flow of up to 7,000 cubic metres and which in a few hours flooding endanger the work of the settlers in these two valleys. Mr de Fargues, Government civil engineer in chief, technical expert to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, stated on 14 January 1950 that the reclamation of the Ouerrha Valley comes well within the objectives of the Bank.

Meeting of the OEEC Working Party on Grassland Improvement

The OEEC Working Party on Grassland Improvement met under the Chairmanship of Dr W. Davies (United Kingdom) in Paris at OEEC Headquarters 2-3 October, 1950. The Working Party drew up detailed arrangements for a meeting on problems of grassland improvement in the Mediterranean area, which will be held in Rome during the first weeks of June, 1951. Prior to this conference a team of experts, on which an FAO expert has been asked to serve, will visit the Mediterranean countries to work out a survey on the most important problems for grassland improvement for this area and prepare a document on its findings. This document will be presented to a pre-conference meeting to which the grassland experts of the countries concern-

ed will be invited and at this meeting a draft will be drawn up for consideration by the main conference.

The Working Party also recommended that a series of other meetings take place during 1951. Thus, at Study Meeting on survey methods on grassland is scheduled to be held at the Grassland Research Station, Stratford-on-Avon, England, in February or March, 1951. At this meeting the methods of soil survey used in the different countries will be discussed and demonstrations and field studies carried out.

A refresher course on grassland extension will take place in the Netherlands in the last week of August 1951 and will follow the pattern already used for a similar meeting which was held in Denmark in August 1950.

A small working group was entrusted to examine the estimates already submitted by a few countries on the possible improvement which might be effected by proper treatment of their grassland and the potential increase in productivity.

The next meeting of the OEEC Grassland Working Party will take place in Paris 4-5 January 1951. It was decided that, in order to encourage further exchange of information on new developments in research, on the agenda of this meeting be placed an item to cover discussion on the main research now being carried out in regard to lucerne.



ANIMAL PRODUCTION

A Meeting of Experts on the Improvement of Milk Processing and Marketing

This meeting, held in Reading and London from 10 to 22 July 1950 was organized jointly by FAO, the British Council, the University of Reading and UNICEF. Forty-nine participants from twenty-two countries attended the meeting; in addition, eight representatives of international organizations and the British Council were present.

The newest methods of handling milk (quality control, collection, transport, pasteurization, bottling and distribution of milk, as well as the processing of surplus milk into dry milk) were demonstrated to the participants by lectures and excursions.

The meeting was very successful and made a highly significant contribution to the dissemination of information on the newest techniques in the processing and marketing of fresh milk.

Study Meeting of the European Association for Animal Production

The European Association for Animal Production organized a Study Meeting at Ghent, Belgium, 10-14 October at which Dr Hammond (United Kingdom), Mr R. Fraps (Beltsville, USA), Mr R. Moustgaard (Denmark), and Prof. Simmonet & H. Le Bars (France) presented papers on the practical use of hormones in animal production. About 150 participants from twelve European countries attended this meeting which was organized by the Association with the cooperation of Prof. J. Martin of the State Agricultural Institute at Ghent and Ing. F. Lievens of the Belgian Ministry of Agriculture.

On this occasion the Council of the E. A. A. P. held its third meeting. The establishment of six Study Commissions was decided upon. (Study Commission on Research in Animal Production - Chairman, Mr R. Braconnier, France; Study Commission on Problems of Animal Feeding - Chairman: Prof. E. Craseman, Switzerland; Study Commission on Cattle Breeding and Production - Chairman: Mr Th. C. J. M. Rijssenbeek, Netherlands; Study Commission on Horse Breeding - Chairman: Mr L. Rulot, Belgium; Study Commission on Sheep and Goat Breeding and Production; Study Commission on Pig Breeding. The Chairmen of the last two Commissions have not yet been definitely nominated.

It was decided to hold the next Study Meeting in the Netherlands during the summer of 1951. The subjects to be dealt with are progeny testing in cattle, horses, sheep and pig breeding.

Meeting of the International Dairy Federation

The International Dairy Federation held its annual meeting at Amsterdam, 25-29 September, 1950. A total of nineteen countries now participate in the work of the Federation of which the following were represented at the meetings: Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Observers attended from ISO, IFAP and FAO.

The six permanent commissions of the IDF (International Commission of Dairy Economics, International Commission for Dried Milks, International Commission for Cheese, International Commission for the Hygienic Production and Control of Milk, International Commission of Industrial Dairy Technique, International Commission for the Standardization of Methods of Analysis of Milk and Milk Products) held special sessions. Several important technical matters were discussed and the new program of work, in the light of the recommendation of

the 12th International Dairy Congress, held at Stockholm August 1950, established.

About the technical work at present carried out by the Federation, attention was called to the preparatory work for the establishment of an international convention for the denomination of cheeses, the preparation of a document on definition, classification and standard methods of analysis of dried full-cream and skimmed milk, the establishment of quality standards for raw and pasteurized milk and the establishment of international standard methods of analysis of milk and milk products.

Prof. Mork (Norway) presented a survey of studies on the sale and consumption of milk, which was unanimously adopted. It was decided that this document should be published. A recommendation was unanimously adopted to organize at yearly intervals special Study Meetings dealing with determined fields of dairy technology and the Board of the Federation was entrusted to work out the program for such a meeting, which could be held already during the summer of 1951.

The General Assembly of the IDF accepted with regret the resignation of the President, Prof. R. Bourri (Switzerland) and of the Vice-Presidents, Prof. R. Mork (Norway) and Mr Mullie (Belgium). Prof. R. Mork (Norway) was unanimously elected the new President of the Federation. Mr J. Linthorst-Homan (Netherlands), Prof. P. Kästli (Switzerland) and Mr Howy (Australia) were elected Vice-Presidents.

It was also decided that the next International Dairy Congress, the 13th, be held in the Netherlands in 1953 while tentative arrangements were made to hold the following congress in 1955 or 1956 in Australia. The annual meetings of the General Assembly in 1951 will take place during the summer in Oslo, Norway.

Scientific Meeting on Milk Production

A scientific meeting on milk production, organized by the National Centre of Coordination of Research on Nutrition and Food, will be held from 28 to 30 November 1950 in Alfort, France.

On the first day production and genetics will be discussed, on the second, production and feeding, on the third, pathology and feed hygiene.

In addition to the French experts the meeting will be attended by Prof. Bonadonna (Italy) who will present a paper on artificial insemination and milk production; Dr Kon of Reading (England) who will speak on the vitamin content of milk, its variations and relative causes; and Dr Mattick, also of Reading, who will discuss chronic udder infections and their effect on the production and composition of milk.



ECONOMICS AND MARKETS

Progress of the world census of agriculture in the countries of Europe

Europe is probably one of the regions in the world where the world census of agriculture recommended by FAO is being carried out in the most systematic and comprehensive manner. The very small proportion of illiterates, in comparison with other less advanced continents, permits every country in Europe to undertake the census from reports by individual agricultural holders, instead of resorting, as in some regions, to aggregate estimates covering entire communes or more or less extensive stretches of land. The agricultural or central statistical services in the majority of European countries, well equipped and using effective working methods, as well as the relative facility in recruiting qualified census agents, make it possible to conduct and carry out successfully the arduous task involved in any census.

There is a difficulty, however, which should be noted — the question of funds. The budgets of European countries, overburdened by post-war needs, cannot always meet the considerable expense of a census. If, as is sometimes the case, this project is not thought to be absolutely necessary, funds are not granted and the census is postponed to a later date. This, for instance, is the case in Austria and France.

All the countries of Europe, with a few exceptions, have undertaken in 1950 or close to this year, an agricultural census using the holding questionnaire method. This questionnaire was usually drafted so as to obtain at least all the data on the items in the short list of the world census of agriculture. In many countries the data obtained are well in excess of the short list and tend to cover the expanded list.

Among the countries which generally compile relatively detailed returns each year, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Yugoslavia in 1950 will not undertake any additional special census operations. They will add a few supplementary items to their usual questionnaires and a more detailed analysis will cover the greater part of the items on the short list. In the United Kingdom, the agricultural statistical services every quarter mail a questionnaire to every agricultural holder in the country; this questionnaire refers to area under crops, crop production, livestock and agricultural labour. The questionnaire for March 1950 includes some additional items for the world census. Furthermore, a special

enumeration of machinery and equipment will be made in 1950 and a census will be taken of the agricultural population in 1951 at the time of the general census of the population of the United Kingdom. In Switzerland the current annual census is also effected holding by holding and covers crops and machinery and equipment; no supplementary returns are contemplated for 1950. In Yugoslavia the annual crop statistics are compiled by commune, while the census for livestock is taken by holding; a more complete census has not yet been organized. The different countries of Europe may be classed into four groups according to time of taking the census:

(a) countries having taken a census of agriculture prior to 1950:

Denmark (1949), western zones of Germany (1949), Hungary (1948), Ireland (1949), Norway (1949);

(b) countries taking a census in 1950:

Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia;

(c) countries which have postponed the agricultural census until after 1950:

Austria, France, Portugal, Sweden (1951);

(d) countries for which particulars are not available:

Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Iceland, Poland, Rumania, Spain, U.S.S.R.

The preliminary results will, in general, be available six months to a year after termination of census operations. The final results require more time for compilation. It is thought that the complete data will not be ready until 1952. In the case of census operations undertaken in 1949 or at the beginning of 1950 preliminary information is beginning to be published, in particular by Norway, the United Kingdom and the western zones of Germany.

The market situation and power cultivation possibilities in France

(Excerpt from *Situation et Perspectives de l'Agriculture française* in *Notes et Etudes documentaires* of the Ministry of Agriculture, Paris, 20 April 1950).

PURCHASE OF PRODUCTION REQUISITES

The documentation on this subject is extremely diverse and consequently particulars will be limited to the tractor market, by far the most representative.

First French manufacture. In 1949 the French plants produced 17,266 tractors, 4,884 more than in 1948. It should be noted, however, that an appreciably higher output, estimated at about 19,000,

could have been reached if, since last spring, all the manufacturers had not slowed down somewhat their output rate in order to make allowance for market conditions. They were obliged to take this step especially as at the end of 1948 there were still many tractors in stock at the factory although no check was made at the time. This stock increased until 30 September 1949 at least, when numbers reached 3,640. After this date there was a partial reduction and by 31 December the number of tractors in hand stood at 2,276. It should also be taken into account that two French factories closed down and in consequence found it especially difficult to dispose of their remaining stock.

Taking into account this variation in stocks, it may be taken calculated theoretically that in 1949 the French factories manufactured some 16,000 tractors which were distributed among the agents for the different makes. Does this mean that all these tractors were sold? It is unlikely. It can merely be noted that, in the opinion of the manufacturers trade association, sales seemed to improve during the last months of 1949.

What is the situation as regards the market for imported tractors? Customs statistics show that 12,180 tractors were imported in 1949 while in 1948 the number was 15,825. Here also certain factors have to be noted: the reduction, during the year, of the Marshall Fund credits available for purchases in the U.S.A.; and in particular, the devalorization in September 1949 and the restoration of customs duties (15 per cent. on tractors under 1,200 kg. and 35 per cent. on tractors over this weight). Consequently there has been an increase in price of 40 per cent. for the first class of imported tractors and over 70 per cent. for the second class. It is not surprising, therefore, that since October 1949 imports have dwindled somewhat as importers, because of the high price, can only place an order when the client requests them to do so.

Lastly, account has also to be taken of French exports. The customs statistics for 1949 reported the export of 911 tractors to other countries and 1,781 to French Overseas territories; thus net imports amounted to 9,488 bringing to 25,500 the number of tractors put on the French market and probably sold save for one or two thousand. In other words, the actual increase in numbers seems to have been slightly less than in 1948 when tractors totalled a little over 28,000, so that the reduction, if it was real, might be explained by circumstantial reasons such as the influence of the first drop in agricultural prices in the autumn of 1948 or the no-buying campaign in the spring of 1949, and the fact that the types of tractors made in the French factories did not meet the wishes or needs of the buyers so well in 1949.

Recently, however, there have been signs, of a longer range depression. The main indications are the programs drawn up by the regional agricultural

committees for the year 1950, programs which clearly show the desire of farmers in different regions to have tractors. Roughly, it may be said that north of the Loire and the upper Seine, there is a strong inclination on the part of the farmers to be equipped with tractors; this should lead to a definite increase in the number of machines in use, taking into account the old machines which have to be replaced. This is particularly the case in the regions of the Centre, Centre North, Centre West, Centre South, Normandy, Brittany, Champagne and Ardennes. Elsewhere, on the contrary pessimism as to the value of mechanization appears to have prevailed, and in some regions a marked absence of investment in power equipment is to be feared; this is especially so in Poitou, Charente and Charente Maritime, in the interior of the Massif Central and the Landes Gironde region.

These facts make it necessary to consider the problem of the prospects of extending power cultivation in France. Consequently account will have to be taken of the number of tractors at present in use and the productive area of the farms sufficiently large to permit profitable use of a medium-sized tractor under present conditions.

The number of tractors in actual use at the end of 1949 may be calculated at 110,000 consisting of 25,000 tractors in joint use (10,000 by cooperative associations and 15,000 by contractors) and 85,000 operated by individual farmers. Assuming that the 85,000 tractors which were not in joint use were purchased solely by farms sufficiently large to ensure full utilization and fixing at 75 productive hectares this minimum area, it would appear therefore that 85,000 tractors permit farming effectively 6,375,000 ha. French farms may be approximately divided into the following categories by area :

Category by area	Number of farms	Arable area in hectares
Over 500 ha.	1,743	1,024,832
200 to 500 ha.	7,252	1,864,851
100 to 200 ha.	23,473	2,914,726
Total number of farms over 100 ha.	32,468	5,804,409
50 to 100 ha.	81,844	5,277,613
75 to 100 ha. (estimate)	37,600	3,000,000
Total number of farms over 75 ha.	70,000	8.8 million ha.

It is certainly not desirable, however, to urge total motorization of the French farms, even if over 75 ha. in area. Farming security requires maintaining at least one team of draught horses, namely, for the 70,000 farms in question 210,000 head of draught stock. The full use of mechanical and animal traction also necessitates reserving for these draught horses a farm area of 2.7 million ha., that is, a productive area of about 2.2 million ha., in addition the profitable use of tractors will require 6,375 million ha. Theoretically, therefore, the French farms over 75 ha. in size are now adequately equip-

ped and the 110,000 tractors in use will probably not be exceeded. In France, however, there are farms less than 75 hectares in area (total farm area), but having over 36 ha. of arable land which is sufficient for the profitable use of a double ploughshare tractor. Therefore, if it is assumed that an additional 2 million hectares can be added to the farming area supplied with mechanical traction, the number of tractors in use will theoretically increase to

$$110,000 + \frac{2,000,000}{75} = 136,000.$$

Consequently, it would seem that there is a possibility of some 135,000 tractors being used in farming; at least 80 per cent. of this figure has been reached.

Sufficient attention has not yet been given to the mechanization of farms 15 to 30 hectares in size.

European Payments Union

On 7 July 1950 the Council of the OEEC adopted the rules and terms of a European Payments Union which will replace the second intra-European compensation and payments agreement in application from 1 July 1949 to 30 June 1950.

By setting up a multilateral monetary system, the OEEC has renewed, within certain limits, the pre-war international payments system which clearly puts each country in its rôle of debtor or creditor. This new system tends to eliminate the discrimination between hard currency and soft currency. It is also an incentive to debtors to reduce their deficit and to creditors to limit their surpluses. The greater facility brought about in payments and the trade regulations with which the member countries of the Union will comply, will foster the extension of intra-European trade.

Trade agreements

AUSTRIA

Negotiations for the revision of the **Austro-Belgian-Luxembourg** trade agreement of 13 April 1948 are under way. As announced of 3 June 1950, by Austrian Federal Chamber of Commerce, the terms of the trade agreement with the commodity lists have been maintained to the full extent.

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A trade agreement covering one year beginning 1 July 1950 was signed by **Austria and Bulgaria** on 29 June. By this agreement Austrian exports will amount to 6,500,000 dollars and Bulgarian exports to 7,500,000 dollars. The difference on the Bulgarian side is to cover the balance of 1 million in favour of Austria, resulting from the preceding agreement.

Austrian exports will include different types of paper, rubber goods, staple fibres, tractors, machinery, chemicals.

Bulgaria will mainly supply tobacco, cereals, fruits and walnuts, honey, seed, hogs, poultry, eggs, canned fish, oil, bristles, bed feathers, skins, leathers.

The trade agreement between Austria and Hungary of 25 March 1950 is to be in force until 31 August 1951 as revised quotas to be exchanged have been increased by dollars 3,000,000 in each direction.

Among increased Austrian quotas: celluloses, chemical products, etc.; and from Hungary a large quota of cattle, hogs, animal viscera and guts, coal. The reciprocal technical credit provided in the payment agreement has been raised from dollars 1,400,000 to dollars 2,000,000.

An agreement for the duration of one year was concluded by Austria and Rumania at the end of April 1950. Commodities to the value of 9,700,000 dollars will be exchanged by each contracting party.

Austria will mainly furnish machinery, tools, steel goods, sepiolite and finished goods, while it will import from Rumania — in million dollars — staple foodstuffs (4,450), other foodstuffs (1,800), fodder (1,000), raw materials and finished products. Austria, however, has not been able to obtain Rumanian petroleum. Payment will be effected through clearing at the national banks of the two countries.

BULGARIA (*see also*: AUSTRIA)

On 3 June 1950, in Sofia a trade agreement was signed between Bulgaria and Rumania for 1950 which envisages a considerable expansion of trade. Rumania is to export petroleum products, crude oil, chemical products; and other principal commodities to be exported from Bulgaria to Rumania are: seeds, tobacco, agricultural products, raw hides, skins, ores, etc.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On 24 June 1950 Czechoslovakia and Communist China signed a trade agreement in force up to the end of 1950.

Czechoslovakia will send China steel and iron industrial goods, motorcars, tyres etc. and in exchange will receive from China oilseeds, raw hides, natural silk, tungsten, lead, etc.

A trade agreement between Czechoslovakia and Iceland is in force for one year beginning 1 May 1950. Iceland will mainly export flour and fish oil, herrings and other fish in exchange for footwear, textiles, tyres, glassware, paper, machinery, etc.

A new trade agreement between Czechoslovakia and the Netherlands was initiated at Prague on 29 July 1950. Exports from each country will amount to 90 million florins over a period of one year beginning 1 August 1950.

The Netherlands will supply Czechoslovakia with agricultural products, chemicals, electro-technical industrial equipment, tin alloys, while Czechoslovakia will chiefly export textiles, agricultural products including 3,000 tons malt, motor-cars, glassware.

On 8 July 1950 a trade agreement was signed in Bucharest by Czechoslovakia and Rumania. Czechoslovakia will furnish textiles, heavy equipment, hydro-thermic and hydro-electric power station materials. In exchange Rumania will supply agricultural products, timber and petroleum.

DENMARK (*see also* FINLAND)

A new Danish-Swedish trade agreement was signed on 1 March 1950.

The total volume of trade anticipated under the new protocol is larger than that of 1948 and 1949.

Sweden's exports to Denmark are about 250,000,000 Swedish crowns in value (1 S.cr.=dollar 0.19) against Danish exports worth 222,000,000 S.cr.

It is expected that well over half of the trade in each direction will take place in the so-called free-listed items.

Among commodities to be exported from Sweden to Denmark are: lumber, wood pulp, machinery, chemical and other products, refrigeration equipment, steel-ware.

A trade agreement was signed by Denmark and U.S.S.R. on 27 July 1950. The value of the goods exchanged will amount to approximately 5.6 million crowns, including delivery during 1950 of lignite briquette by the Soviet Union in exchange for horses and salted herring from Denmark.

FINLAND (*see also* FRANCE)

A trade agreement covering a period of one year beginning 1 July 1950 has been signed by Finland and Denmark. It provides for the importation of Finnish commodities into Denmark to the value of 180 million Danish crowns and for Danish exports to Finland for the amount of 150 million crowns.

Among the Finnish exports (90 per cent. figure on the Danish list of commodities not subject to import restrictions) are: sawn lumber (100,000 standards), cellulose (20,000 tons), aspen wood (400,000 cubic feet), assorted paper, pasteboard, machinery, glassware.

Denmark will export among other commodities: fresh fruit (7 million Danish crowns), forage and vegetable seed (3 million D. cr.), fish and fish by-products (1.5 million D. cr.), canned milk (700,000 D. cr.), textile goods, pharmaceutical products.

Finland and the Netherlands signed a trade agreement valid for one year beginning 1 July 1950.

Finnish exports will mainly consist of lumber, cellulose, different types of paper, cardboard, machinery.

Holland will supply cacao, fruit, vegetables, woolen and cotton fabrics, electric machines, rolled metal goods, etc.

FRANCE (*see also* IRELAND, SWITZERLAND).

A trade agreement valid from 1 July to 31 December 1950 was drawn up by the Franco-Belgian-Luxembourg Joint Commission.

Among the commodities of the B.L.E.U. exportable to France are — in million Belgian francs — Witloof chicory (75), peas and beans for seed (16), flax seed (15), flowering bulbs (9.28), medicinal plants (5), hops (7.5), fresh salt-water fish (16), coffee (7.5), sesame and castor seed (6), beer (5), sweets, confectionery, fish oil and fat, malt, dietary foods, agricultural machinery (10), milking machines (12), various agricultural equipment particularly spare parts for farm and dairy machinery, textile machines (70), special machinery and equipment for food industries (17), milling and feedstuff machinery, paper, leathers, rabbit skins, etc. B.L.E.U. exports to French overseas territories will include — in thousand Belgian francs — loaf sugar (20,000), leaf tobacco (10,000), processed tobacco (3,000), beer; and to North Africa, loaf sugar (60,000), coffee (18,000), endive (11,000), tobacco, beer, cacao, agricultural and food industry requisites, tunny-trawlers.

Importation from France into the B.L.E.U. of 2,500 head of non-fattened cattle and 200 tons of cut flowers, *inter alia*, will be authorized.

An agreement has been concluded between France and Chile for the importation into France by the Nitrates Import Company which has the monopoly of fertilizers, of 150,000 tons of Chile nitre at the price of 48.50 dollars per ton.

In return France will export to Chile the commodities it desires to the value of 7 million dollars.

On 5 June 1950 France and Finland signed a trade agreement in Paris valid for one year beginning 1 June. The French-Finland accounts show a balance to the credit of France and consequently the Finnish authorities, until further notice, will only deliver 70 per cent. of the value of the French imports on the quota list.

Among the French commodities listed are wines and spirituous liquors (500 million francs), citrus fruits, dates and figs (50,000 fr.), olive oil, spices, medicinal plants, vegetable seed, agricultural and food products, hardwood logs (1,400 cub. m.), sawn hardwood (200 cub. m.), wool, internal combustion engines, machinery and equipment for food industrial plants, breweries, textile factories, agricultural machines and tools, tanned hides, chemicals, rock phosphates (100,000 tons), ground phosphates (10,000 tons), sea salt (5,000 t.).

The Finnish export quota list includes cheese (3,400 t.), woodpulp (400,000 steres), sawn lumber (30,000 standards), poles, insulating board, matches (120 million boxes), wooden goods, paper.

Supplementary quotas have been added to the Franco-Italian trade agreement of 11 March 1950, namely: imports into France (in million francs) — rice (400), Parmesan cheese (200); imports into Italy — cattle (5,000 head), porkers (2,000 head), pork (300 tons), fresh bananas (100 million francs), carob-beans (60 million fr.), Moroccan tinned sardines (20 million fr.), pickled anchovies (10 million francs), fresh pineapples (10 million fr.).

A trade agreement between France and Norway was initialled at Oslo on 26 June 1950 and will remain operative up to 30 June. Since Norway owes to France the Norwegian authorities will have the faculty to deliver until further notice import licences for French commodities for only 70 per cent. of the quotas listed. The release of the remaining 30 per cent. will subsequently be examined by a joint Franco-Norwegian Committee.

Among the French products, quotas listed — in 1,000 Norwegian crowns (1 N. cr. = 48.92 francs) — are wines and spirits (7,500), bananas (350), feathers and down (300), citrus fruit (150), raw phosphates (20,000 tons), sawn hardwood (3,000 cub. m.), veneer, colonial timber, cork waste, leathers and skins, textile goods, chemicals, agricultural machinery and equipment (1,000), machines for the textile industry, engines for agriculture, glassware, metals.

Norwegian exports to France include — in 1,000 Norwegian crowns — fresh or chilled fish including salmon (6,500), fish and tinned fish for the colonies (2,000), salted herrings (1,300), smoked herring (1,200), raw sealskins (1,000), fresh or frozen fish (1,000); whale oil, marine oil, cod liver oil, beer, nitrogenous fertilizers (pure nitrogen 2,500 tons), miscellaneous paper, fish-hooks.

GERMANY (*see also* ITALY)

The German Federal Republic and Argentina signed a trade and financial agreement in Frankfurt on 31 July 1950. This agreement provides for a trade in goods to the value of 123,870,000 dollars by each contracting party. All payments will be effected in dollars. A mutual credit of 31 million dollars without interest is arranged.

Argentine commodities for export to Germany include — in thousand dollars — bread grains (30,500), meat (15,000), fodder (15,000), hides (20,000), wool (18,000), oils and oilseeds for industrial use (12,500), bristle, cotton, meat extract and meal, industrial grease, casein, bone, guts, tung oil, honey, quebracho extract, leather, rags.

German commodities will mainly consist of iron and steel goods, chemicals, machinery, scientific equipment, and also — in thousand dollars — breeding animals (750), hops (500), seed and seedlings (100), textiles, manufactured and industrial goods.

The German Federal Republic and Colombia have concluded a trade and payment agreement to the value of 37 million dollars. This agreement, valid for one year beginning 1 July 1950, is renewable yearly failing notice of termination.

Colombian exports to Germany include — in million dollars — coffee (18), bananas (5), tobacco (3.5), sugar (2), maize and rice (1), raw hides (2.5), petroleum and miscellaneous commodities.

Germany will supply machinery, iron and steel goods, chemicals, pharmaceutical products, etc.

The agreement signed on 24 June 1949 by Germany and Iran which was due to expire on 23 June 1950, has been extended to 23 September 1950. Goods will be exchanged to the value of 15,505,000 dollars by each country.

Germany and Ireland signed a trade agreement in Dublin on 12 July 1950. This agreement covers a period of one year beginning 1 July 1950 and is renewable yearly.

German exports to Ireland will amount to 2,420,000 pounds sterling (6,776,000 dollars) in value, while Irish exports will amount to 1,950,000 pounds sterling (5,460,000 dollars). Ireland will chiefly supply cattle (£ 450,000), barley (£ 360,000), cheese (£ 125,000), eggs (£ 110,000), and small quantities of other agricultural products and also horses for a total of £ 115,000; greasy wool (£ 180,000), carding wool and worsted (£ 160,000), feathers (£ 60,000), industrial fibres, etc.

The German Federal Republic will export textile goods, chemicals, machinery, electrical apparatus, iron and steel goods, etc.

The trade agreement between the German Federal Republic and Pakistan which was due to expire on 30 June 1950 has been extended three months pending ratification of a new agreement. The first agreement provided for an exchange of goods to the value of 42,000,000 dollars in both directions. By the terms of the new agreement the quantities of commodities to be exported by Pakistan will be increased 50 per cent. There will be no change, however, in the amount of German goods to be imported into Pakistan.

A trade agreement was signed on 12, May 1950, between the Federal Republic of Western Germany and Peru. Among other terms of the trade agreement are included provisions for most-favored-nation treatment with respect to mutual imports and exports. All payments under the agreements are to be effected in United-States dollars.

On 24 August 1950 a trade and navigation agreement and a payment agreement was signed at Frankfurt by western Germany and Portugal to substitute the agreement of 5 July 1949. This agreement is valid for one year. Portuguese commodities which can be exported to Germany include — in dollars — pulses (500,000), vegetable oils (500,000 and over), oilcakes (500,000), olive oil, lard, fish oil (150,000), sardines and other canned fish (2 million), cassava (250,000) fresh and dried fruit, tomato concentrate (65,000), new potatoes (200,000, up to 15 May 1951), tea (100,000), wines and spirits (700,000, including 500,000 for madeira wine and port), textiles (1 million cork goods (650,000), colonial timber (1 million), mine props (100,000), wicker (25,000), whale and cachalot oil (250,000), leather goods, pyrites, etc. The total quotas allowed the Portuguese amount to 10 million dollars.

German exports to Portugal include agricultural and industrial commodities, machinery, vehicles, iron and steel goods, chemicals, timber paper, textiles, electro-technical equipment, etc.

HUNGARY (*see also* AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND)

An additional Protocol to the Commercial and Financial Agreement of 14 July 1948 between Hungary and Argentina was signed on 5 May, 1950.

These countries promised to facilitate the exchange during the next 12 months of \$ 37,400,000 worth of goods each way.

Argentina exports to Hungary will consist principally of cattle hides, sheepskins, wool; quebracho extract, linseed oil, cotton fibers, industrial tallow, etc. Hungary will export principally industrial goods, motors, chassis, divers instruments.

IRELAND (*see also* GERMANY)

The trade agreement concluded on 13 July 1950 between Ireland and France is operative from 1 July 1950 to 30 June 1951. This agreement provides for an increase in exports and greater facility in importing into France Irish industrial and agricultural commodities. French exports of fertilizers to Ireland will be higher. Irish commodities exported to France include — in pounds sterling — fresh salmon (25,000), smoked fish (25,000), stout (34,000), woollen fabric (55,000; this sum is only an estimate since this commodity has been released from quota), whisky (11,000), winkles (10,000), etc.

ITALY (*see also* FRANCE, POLAND, YUGOSLAVIA)

A trade agreement between Italy and Western Germany was initialled on 12 July 1950. Becoming operative from the date of signing, this agreement provides for an exchange of commodities to the value of about 140 dollars on each side, being equivalent to an increase of approximately 30 per cent. of the volume of trade effected by the preceding agreement.

Italian exports for about 45 million dollars will consist of agricultural products (fruit, vegetables, wines, rice), the remainder being industrial and, in particular, textile goods. German exports for 42 million dollars will be in coal, and the remainder in finished and semi-finished industrial commodities.

On 5 July 1950 in Rio de Janeiro Italy and Brazil signed the agreements initialled on 13 April 1950, that is: a trade agreement, a payment agreement and an agreement for economic collaboration. The trade agreement which became operative on the day of signing same is valid for one year and provides for a trade in goods to the value of 100 million dollars by each country, being double the trade in 1949. The list of Brazilian quota exports (in dollars) includes cotton (21 million), coffee (15 million), raw oxhides (4 million), oilseeds (1,710,000), cacao beans (1,600,000), sisal and other vegetable fibres (1,500,000), frozen meat (1 million), sawn lumber (200,000), sawn pine lumber (420,000), carnauba wax (500,000), cotton waste (500,000), cocoa butter (200,000).

Among the Italian commodities exported to Brazil are 3,340,000 million dollars' worth of foodstuffs including olive oil (1 million), wines, vermouth and liqueurs (920,000), garlic (800,000), dried fruits (250,000), cheeses (200,000). Textile goods (1,620,000 dollars), farm tractors (1 million), edible paste mill-ing machinery (1 million), textile machines (1,200,000), fishing vessels, chemicals, etc.

On 27 May 1950 Italy and Lebanon signed a trade agreement covering a trade exchange to the value of 2,250,000 dollars.

Lebanon will export olive oil (600,000 dollars), oilcakes, cereals (230,000 dollars), eggs, raw hides, etc. and will import from Italy rice, woollen and cotton yarn and fabric, agricultural machines, chemicals, etc.

On 29 June 1950 Italy and Pakistan signed a trade agreement which came into force on 1 July 1950 for the duration of one year.

The Pakistan commodities for export to Italy include (in thousand pounds sterling) raw cotton (6,000 for 40,000 tons), raw jute (4,000 for 40,000 tons), raw hides (350), cottonseed (175 for 8,000 tons), raw wool, tea, dried fish, oil of turpentine, potassium nitrate, etc.

The Italian quota commodities — in thousand pounds sterling — include potatoes (400), garlic, onions, wines, liqueurs, olive oil and in particular cotton, jute, silk, rayon textile goods, agricultural machinery and machines for the textile and food industries, machinery for working wood, chemicals and pharmaceutical products.

POLAND (*see also* UNITED KINGDOM).

The trade agreement between Poland and Israel has been extended from 1 June to 1 December 1950. During the year which ended 1 June 1950 Polish imports of commodities from Israel rose approximately to 1,500,000 and exports to 800,000.

Polish exports consisted mainly of iron and steel goods and agricultural products (meat and flour), while Israel chiefly exported oranges, lemons, razor blades.

Following an exchange of notes on 7 July 1950, Poland and Italy decided to extend to the end of September the validity of the quota lists appended to the agreement of 15 June 1949 terminating 30 June 1950.

A trade agreement was signed by Poland and Pakistan in Warsaw on 5 July 1950, and will be valid from 1 July 1950 to 30 June 1951. It provides for imports into Poland of rice, cotton, jute and other commodities against Polish exports to Pakistan of coal, steel and iron goods, chemicals, textiles and minerals.

On 1 June 1950 in Stockholm Poland and Sweden signed a supplementary Protocol to the agreement of 3 November 1949 in force between these two countries. By virtue of this Protocol, during the remaining period of this agreement (31 October 1950) Poland may temporarily exceed the crown account of the Polish National Bank at the Sveriges Riksbank by 12,000,000 crowns; in exchange for this temporary credit Poland undertakes to forego asking payment in pounds sterling for 60 per cent. of its deliveries of coal and coke to Sweden, according to the payment agreement of 18 October 1949 in force.

The value of Polish exports from 1 October 1949 to 31 October 1950 has been estimated at approximately 265 million crowns, exports consisting chiefly

of coal and coke; other imports during the half of this period of 13 months only amount to 12 to 13 million crowns.

A supplementary Protocol to the 5 year trade agreement signed in 1949 by Poland and Switzerland regulates the trade between the two countries for a period of one year dating from 1 July 1950.

Poland will import steel and iron industrial goods, raw materials for the textile industry, and will supply Switzerland with coal, ores, etc.

SWITZERLAND (*see also* POLAND).

A codicil to the trade agreement of 20 July 1947 in force between Switzerland and the Argentine Republic was signed in Buenos Aires on 3 August 1950. Its object is to facilitate exports from Switzerland blocked during the last few years by Argentine import and currency restrictions.

A trade agreement between Switzerland and Australia was the outcome of negotiations conducted during the past few months at Berne and Canberra.

The volume of goods exchanged has been fixed at 37 million Swiss francs.

Switzerland will export chiefly textiles, machinery and clocks and watches.

On 20 July 1950 a trade agreement was signed by Switzerland and France for a period of one year beginning 1 September 1950.

French exports to Switzerland comprise barley (10,000 tons), malt (10,000 t.), raisins (4,000 t.), fresh vegetables (4,000 t.), fresh fruit and berries (3,000 t.), denatured wheat (2,000 t.), other cereals (1,000 t.), bananas (fresh 2,000 t., dried 800 t.), seed potatoes, hops (1,000 tons respectively), cacao beans (2,000 t.), olive oil and groundnut oil (1,000 t. each), eggs (1,000 t.), fresh meat other than pork (1,000 t.), beverage wine (85,000 hl.), name-brand wines (115,000 hl.), champagne (400,000 bottles), cognac, rum, liqueurs and vermouth (9,000 hl.), beef cattle (1,500 head), horses (500 head), crude phosphate (50,000 t.), Thomas slag (70,000 t.), potash salts (18,000 t.), superphosphate (5,000 t.), straw (20,000 t.), hay and aftergrowth (10,000 t.), brewers' barley, distillery residue (6,000 t.), broadleaved fuelwood (25,000 t.), raw cork (1,500 t.), mixed sawlogs (25,000 cub. metres), colonial sawlogs (15,000 tons), mixed sawn lumber (7,500 t.), textiles (including 2,500 tons worsted), different agricultural products, foodstuffs and agricultural requisites, 90 farm tractors, machinery for the food industry, paper, etc.

Swiss commodities authorized for export to France include (in thousand Swiss francs) medicinal milk powder (10,000), hard cheeses (15,000), table pears and apples (3,500), nitrate fertilizers (1,500), ploughs and cultivators, reapers, swath-layers, etc. (1,300), textile machinery (8,000), farm tractors, loading equipment, agricultural commodities and foodstuffs for a smaller amount. Swiss exports to North Africa (in thousand Swiss francs) will comprise condensed milk (225), medicinal milks (400), hard cheeses (550), apples and pears (250), different agricultural

products (180) — and to French overseas territories (Madagascar, French Equatorial Africa, Cameroons, French West Africa, Indo-China) — in thousand Swiss francs — concentrated milk powder (1,025), cheeses (100), and other commodities.

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Switzerland and Hungary on 27 June 1950 signed a trade and payment agreement to the value of 45 million Swiss francs. The payment agreement valid for five years regulates the method of payment on a new basis. A supplementary protocol on trade exchange was signed on 29 June 1950; a list of import and export goods was appended.

Hungary will mainly supply wheat, forage, beef cattle and agricultural produce. Switzerland will send cattle for breeding, dyes, watchmaking pieces, machine tools.

UNITED KINGDOM

A Trade Arrangement was recently concluded between the United Kingdom and Poland to increase exports, substantially above the 1949 levels within the framework of the 5 year Trade and Finance Agreement of 14 January 1949.

In 1950, Polish exports of foodstuffs alone are scheduled at £16,000,000. Other quotas have been established for miscellaneous manufactured goods.

The agreed quotas provide for United Kingdom exports of commercial vehicles, motorcycles, pharmaceuticals etc. and for Polish exports of textiles, casein, wooden ware, papers, etc.

Approximately £135,000,000 worth of goods will be traded on each side during the 5-year period of the agreement.

YUGOSLAVIA

The trade protocol of 4 August 1949 between Yugoslavia and Italy has been extended up to 3 August 1951 and the appended quota lists have been renewed.

Among the Yugoslav commodities for which export is provisionally and exceptionally authorized are: maize (450,000 tons), sugarbeet slices for sugar extraction (5,000 t.), beans (5,000 t.), alcohol (2,000 hl.), beef and veal (1,500 t.), bacon and lard (1,500 t.) eggs (1,000 t.), poultry (1,000 t.), fresh salt-water fish (3,000 t.), sheepskins, oxhides, bristles, oak, ash, elm, walnut logs (10,000 cub. m.), sawn lumber (50,000 cub. m.), coniferous sawn lumber (300,000 cub. m.), pulpwood and softwood (450,000 steres), matchwood, other lumber (70,000 cub. m.), over 200,000 sleepers, iron ore, copper.

Italian export commodities provisionally authorized include: citrus fruit (100 million lire), forage and vegetable seed (60 million lire), 150 million lire cork products, woollen yarn, hemp cord, woollen cotton and silk fabric, pesticides, agricultural tools and machines and spare parts (50 million lire), textile, food industry and milling machines.

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The Trade Agreement signed on 17 March 1950 between Yugoslavia and Mexico provide for reciprocal and unconditional most-favored-nation treatment in all matters pertaining to customs duties, charges and formalities applicable to imports and exports. The Agreement is to be valid for 1 year.



FISHERIES

Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

The International Whaling Commission originated with a Convention signed in Washington on 2 December 1946. Its first meeting was called by the British Government, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and was held in London in 1939.

Professor Bergersen (Norway) is President of the International Whaling Commission and he is assisted by Dr Remington Kellogg (U.S.A.), who is Vice-President. Mr A.T.A. Dobson (U.K.), former Secretary for Fisheries of Great Britain, is Secretary.

The members of the Commission are delegates of the different countries which have ratified the agreement. At present they number sixteen. The delegates may also be accompanied by experts. An annual plenary session is held by the Commission, at which sub-committees are constituted for the study of specific problems.

The functions of the Commission are to encourage or organize studies on whaling, as well as to collect and study statistical information regarding these mammals and to make recommendations to the governments in this particular sphere.

Furthermore the Commission is endowed with regulative powers, as it can alter the schedule annexed to the Convention of 2 December 1946, which concerns dates and areas for the catch, the authorized number of whales which may be caught during each season, etc... But no alteration of the schedule effected by the Commission can enter into force until the signatory governments have been notified, and these governments must give notice of their agreement or disapproval within ninety days.

At the Oslo meeting (17-21 July 1950) the following countries were represented:

Australia	Iceland	United Kingdom
Brazil	Mexico	Union of South
Canada	New Zealand	Africa
Denmark	Norway	U.S.A.
France	Sweden	U.S.S.R.

Argentina and Chile, who have not ratified the agreement, sent observers. Certain international organizations such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, as also the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers were represented.

During the meeting the Commission examined a certain number of questions on technical matters or scientific research, and took note of the reports submitted on these subjects by the qualified sub-committees.

In this connection a very interesting talk was given by Mr Paulsen of the International Bureau of Statistics on the results of the 1949-1950 whaling season.

The figures concerning the Antarctic catch may be summarized as follows:

— quantities captured and treated by the factory ships — 29,015 whales; this figure is the approximate equivalent of 16,000 Units, the number authorized by the agreement.¹

— quantities captured and treated by land stations — approximately 3,000 whales.

Most of the captured whales belong to the 'fin whale' category. The number of blue whales² in the catch was less than in the earlier seasons, but it was stated that the average size of this whale had increased.

According to the results which are known at the moment the oil output was equal to 2,159,148 barrels; this figure shows a slight reduction in comparison with previous seasons, although the average output per whale is on the increase.

The Commission examined the possibility of changing the opening dates of the season. It also dealt with its internal organization and budget. Finally it was decided to accept the invitation of the Government of the Union of South Africa for the Commission to hold its next session on 23 July 1951 in Capetown.

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Details of the United Kingdom White Fish Subsidy Scheme for vessels fishing in inshore, near and middle waters, which came into operation on 31 July, have been announced by the Government.

Inshore fishermen — that is, those using boats not exceeding 70 feet in length overall — will be paid a subsidy at the rate of 10d. per stone of fish landed and sold otherwise than by retail, reduced to 8d. per stone for most varieties of fish landed whole uncut.

For other boats (under 140 feet in length) the amount paid as subsidy will vary according to the size and type of vessel, and be limited by the gross earnings (including subsidy) per day at sea, and for the voyage.

¹ Blue Whale Units, according to paragraph 8 of the schedule are calculated on the basis that one blue whale equals either (a) two fin whales or (b) two and a half humpback whales or (c) six sei whales.

² The blue whale is the largest example of the whale species.

The Norwegian Small Whale Fishery

(Report by the Norwegian Export Council) *

The smaller whales, and particularly the piked whale have been pursued throughout the ages when they have put in an appearance in the narrower inlets and channels along the Norwegian coast. The methods of capture employed have varied with the times.

The emergence of a more organized small whale fishery as a separate industry was due to the demand for whale meat as a feed for silver foxes in the late 1920's. A number of fishing vessels were equipped with harpoon guns and went in for small whale fishing by usual whale catcher methods.

At the time doubts were entertained as to whether this fishery was in conformity with existing Norwegian legislation, and subsequent to an adverse decision handed down by the Supreme Court, new legislation was passed in 1937 by which a system of concessions was introduced for this fishery. This system has since been maintained, and there is consequently available a good deal of information, regarding the extent and output of this fishery in the last decade, which is set out in the accompanying table.

Year	Number of concessions granted	Number of whales captured	Meat in tons	Blubber in tons
1938.....	381	1,484	2,130	852
1939.....	215	1,013	1,393	584
1940.....	112	558	698	315
1941.....	315	2,152	2,915	1,165
1942.....	356	2,205	2,851	1,034
1943.....	314	1,665	1,964	680
1944.....	338	1,447	1,510	537
1945.....	273	1,824	2,020	711
1946.....	298	1,937	2,591	967
1947.....	264	2,716	3,845	1,428
1948.....	315	3,606	4,952	1,843

During the last years of the German occupation a number of fishermen engaged in small whale fishing were granted permits, subject to special conditions, for the capture of larger whales (fin, sei and sperm whales). This was, however, a purely temporary measure prompted by the extraordinary circumstances then prevailing, which was withdrawn as early as 1945.

If we examine the geographical distribution of the catches made in the year 1946, we find that more than half the catch is taken in the Vestfjord and Vesterålen area. Among the other areas which contributed significantly to the total catch may be mentioned: Western Norway, the Norwegian districts of Møre and Trøndelag, Spitzbergen and Bear Island, and the waters off the Shetland Islands and the Faeroes. Piked whales (lesser rorqual) made up the overwhelming majority of the catch (1,885 out of a total of 1,937 in the year 1946). The season lasts from May

* This survey is based on two articles on the subject, which have appeared respectively in 'Norsk Fiskeri- og Fangst-Handbok' and 'Nord-mannsforbundet'.

to August, but some fishermen extend operations considerably beyond this period.

The Ministry concerned has made an estimate of the gross earnings of the small whale fishermen in every year since 1938 when the present system of concessions was put into effect. The figures are as follows:

Year	Number of concessions granted		Total gross earnings
1938.....	381	about Kr.	1,000,000
1939.....	215	"	460,000
1940.....	112	"	600,000
1941.....	315	"	7,100,000
1942.....	356	"	7,900,000
1943.....	314	"	5,760,000
1944.....	338	"	4,900,000
1945.....	273	"	5,550,000
1946.....	298	"	3,400,000
1947.....	264	"	4,983,000
1948.....	315	"	6,645,000

As will be seen the pre-war figures are very modest. The low figure for 1940 may, however, be partly attributed to the fact that the war placed considerable restrictions on the fishing operations of that year.

In 1941 the return yielded by this fishery reached a substantially higher level. This increase was mainly due to the fact that during and after the war whale meat was used for human consumption to a much greater extent than before while at the same time prices paid for the meat increased many times over. Part of the increase may, however, be traceable to the inclusion in the returns of the larger whales which some of the fishermen were allowed to catch during the war.

The vessels employed in the small whale fishery carry an average crew of four men. With about 300 vessels employed this means a total of 1,200-1,300 men engaged in this industry. Even in a good year gross earnings per head do not amount to more than 4-5,000 Norwegian kroner. When expenses are deducted, net earnings can hardly amount to more than a couple of thousand kroner per man. However, account should be taken of the fact that the catches are very unevenly distributed between participating vessels, as can be seen from the following returns covering the 250 vessels that actually made any catches in 1946.

Distribution of catches between participating vessels in 1946

82 vessels captured	1 - 5 whales
111 " "	5 - 10 "
43 " "	10 - 15 "
10 " "	15 - 20 "
3 " "	20 - 25 "
1 vessel captured more than 25 whales	

Landings of whale meat from small whale fishery in 1946

10 vessels landed less than 1 ton of meat	
10 " " from 1 - 5 tons "	
88 " " " 5 - 10 " "	
69 " " " 10 - 20 " "	
12 " " " 20 - 30 " "	
8 " " " 30 - 40 " "	
3 " " " 40 - 50 " "	

The uneven distribution bears some relation to the fact that some vessels are exclusively engaged in the small whale fishery and consequently extend the season over as large a part of the year as possible, whereas the great majority of vessels confine their operations to a comparatively short season.

According to the returns supplied by all holders of concessions for small whale fishing in the years 1938, 1939 and 1940, 2.6 per cent of the vessels were exclusively engaged in whaling, 87.5 per cent of the remaining vessels were wholly engaged in whaling during the main season, the length of which varied somewhat from one district to another, while the other 12.5 per cent were alternately engaged in whaling and other fishing activities also during the main season. 90 per cent of the vessels fished whales also outside the season proper.

It is probably correct to consider small whale fishing as a subsidiary occupation usually combined with other fishing activities. As such, this type of whaling has in recent years been of considerable importance to those engaged in it.

In addition to the small whale fishery, larger whales (mainly fin whales and a few blue whales, but periodically also sei whales) are fished from four land stations situated at different points of the Norwegian coast. The operation of such stations is subject to concession granted by the Government, and the number has been restricted to four to avoid overfishing. Each station is permitted to hunt with three whale catchers and from 100-200 whales may be treated by the individual station during a season of 6 months' duration. This is a small output when compared with the catches made in the Antarctic where a single factory ship may handle about 2,000 whales in the season, and the difference is made even greater by the fact the whales in the Antarctic are of greater average size and yield more oil than those in the northern seas. Besides, the catches made by the factory ships include a large number of blue whales, the oil yield of which is about double that of the fin whale. On the other hand the operating expenses of the land stations are not comparable with those incurred in pelagic whaling, although these stations are fairly large establishments with plant for trying out the blubber, treating the dry matter, freezing the meat, etc. The fact that a land station is in a position to make a much better use of the whale carcass than is possible on board a factory ship, is of decisive importance to the economy of these establishments. The meat production is particularly valuable, and a single fin whale may yield as much as 10 tons of meat. It is true that some of this meat is pared off for use on the fox farms, but the major part is used for human consumption.

A market for whale meat was already worked up before the war, but it was during the war years — when supplies of other types of meat were scarce or non-existent — that the general public learnt that whale meat — properly prepared — can pro-

vide a tasty meal. That whale meat, in regard to the more important food components, is hardly inferior to other meats, was established by scientific experiments a considerable time ago.

During the war the whale catchers operated by the Norwegian land stations were requisitioned by the Germans, and their activities were for this reason suspended. In this period the small whale fishermen were alone in the field. For the latter the meat is by far the most valuable product, and the high prices then ruling contributed greatly to the expansion of this fishery.

Since the war the market for whale meat has been subject to considerable fluctuations, but in some years there has been a greater demand than the trade could cope with. Last summer quite a sharp reaction occurred, which should probably be interpreted as another reminder that we are passing from a sellers, to a buyers, market.

Detailed regulations are now in force prescribing methods of treatment for the meat, making provision for veterinary inspection, etc., and the quality of the meat is accordingly much improved. A further regulation and restriction of the fishery may be called for, but, given conditions of reasonable stability, there is every reason to believe that the industry may look forward to a prosperous future.



FORESTRY

More rational utilization of wood

The Working Party on more rational utilization of wood, established at the Sixth Session of the Timber Committee, met at Geneva from 3 to 6 July 1950. Representatives of the following countries took part in its deliberations: Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

The Working Party elected unanimously Mr J. L. Bienfait, Netherlands, as Chairman, Mr E. Storkirk, Sweden, as Vice-Chairman, and Mr J. Campredon, Expert Consultant, as Secretary.

The Working Party heard a short statement made by the Director of the Timber Division calling attention to the terms of reference of the Working Party and the particular importance of the recommendations made to Governments.

The Working Party of Experts, after having warmly thanked Mr Campredon for his report to the Timber Committee which they decided to take as the basis of their deliberations, studied other re-

ports submitted by experts from different countries. On terminating deliberations the Working Party framed several resolutions directed to the Timber Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe. These resolutions chiefly concern the improvement of tools, the training of workmen, grading of timber and finished products, the organization of research particularly in regard to a better utilization of forest waste, possible economies in building construction, the standardization of the dimensions of wooden cases and the establishment of an International Timber Documentation Centre. The Working Party also recommended to the Timber Committee, in view of the present reduced consumption of wood, due in part to post-war conditions, that a thorough study should be made of the trends in the use of wood from the technical-economic angle.

Forestry in Albania

Forests in Albania take up an area of 1,130,000 hectares (41 % of the total area of the state) and produce yearly 1.5 million cubic metres of wood. There are many species of the genera *Quercus*, *Fagus*, *Fraxinus*, *Ulmus*, *Populus*, *Alnus*, *Pinus*, *Abies* and a few of *Picea* and *Eucalyptus*.

The restoration of forests which had been devastated especially in the higher parts of the country is planned on an area of 350,000 hectares.

Preparatory work for the International Chestnut Week organized by the French Government and the subsequent establishment of the International Chestnut Commission is proceeding. The Director will discuss details during his stay in Paris on his forthcoming trip to attend the European Forestry and Forest Products Commission meeting in Geneva.



PLANT DISEASES AND PESTS

International Conference on Plant Quarantine Regulations

(Convened by the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, The Hague, 26 April - 3 May 1950)

An international conference on plant quarantine regulations, convened under the auspices of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration

with FAO, was held in The Hague from 26 April to 3 May 1950. There was an excellent world-wide attendance with 71 participants representing 18 European territories*, 14 extra-European countries**, and 4 organizations***.

This conference was originally proposed by the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture in celebration of the jubilee of the Netherlands Plant Protection Service, and its primary purpose was to discuss proposals for the improvement of international plant protection regulations. The scope of the conference was extended, at the request of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to cover consideration of other related matters for which the Organization has been made responsible by member-Governments. These include the abrogation of the Phylloxera Convention at Berne, 1881, and revision of the International Plant Protection Convention of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, 1929, together with the establishment of an international centre for the reporting of plant pests and diseases and for the exchange of information on national plant quarantine regulations.

At the request of the European Colorado Beetle Control Committee, provision was further made in the agenda to discuss the transformation of that Committee into a European Plant Protection Organization.

The Conference was not for the discussion of technical problems, but for consideration of the principles and administration of international plant quarantine regulations. These regulations have developed very rapidly over the past half century and are now very complicated and confusing.

The difficulties encountered were discussed at length, and suggestions were made for their resolution. It was pointed out that it was not the intention to weaken in any way the protection that needs to be given to agriculture by the participating governments. The right to ask for such securities was fully recognized and was not in question. Rather was it hoped that, by free discussion and study, a simpler and more uniform international system could be devised. This would lead to a more efficient application of the regulations, and in this way protection would actually be strengthened.

In the following paragraphs a very brief account of the proceedings is given. Only the salient features of the discussions are presented here. A more detailed report has recently been published by the convening authorities.

* Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia.

** Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, India, Indochina, Israel, Morocco, Philippine Republic, United States of America, Venezuela.

*** International Committee of Agricultural Industries, International Federation of Agricultural Producers, International Wine Office, FAO.

Regulations and Certification

The number of phytosanitary certificates at present in use by many countries in connection with the export of plants is unreasonably large. In order to satisfy the requirements of various importing countries, Great Britain has in use as many as forty different types of certificate, some almost duplicates, whilst the Netherlands Government has found as many as eighty to be necessary, and the number is continually increasing since nearly every new requirement leads to a new certificate. The cumbersome nature of such a multiplicity of certificates was very effectively demonstrated by an exhibit arranged by the Netherlands Plant Protection Service.

The excessive number of certificates is the result of lack of coordination between countries of their safeguarding requirements. It is recognized that any country has the right to decide on such requirements as it may consider necessary, but there are many directions in which these requirements could be rationalized. Thus, even on the more strictly administrative side, various countries respectively require sanitary certificates to be signed by the inspector, by the technical head of the phytosanitary service or his representative, or by the Minister of Agriculture or his representative. Improvements in the requirements on the technical side are also possible. In principle all requirements should be simple, uniform, and in accordance with the biological characteristics of both host and parasite. At present the requirements of different countries concerning one and the same disease or pest vary greatly, so that for a single disease or pest it may be necessary to deal with as many as ten or more different requirements. Admittedly different climatic conditions might justify different requirements, but often it appears that in making requirements a general fear of the unknown may play a big part. Full experience of a disease or pest can best be obtained in those countries where it is fairly common, and consultation with specialists from such countries would lead to more satisfactory requirements. In order to provide a continuing opportunity for such consultation and discussion on the international level, and so to ensure the greatest possible consistency in quarantine requirements so far as variations in biological conditions and agricultural needs will permit, it was recommended that international technical working parties should be established for each of the plant pests and diseases of major international importance.

On the basis of simplified and more uniform requirements, discussion indicated that simplification and unification of certificates could follow, yet it appears that much improvement in the present position is possible almost immediately. Thus it was stated that in Canada a basic form of certificate has been in general use over the past ten years. Clearly there are no fundamental objections to the wide

acceptance of a simplified form of certificate, although in this connection the delegates of certain countries voiced reservations, maintaining that there was some uncertainty whether such a system would be sufficiently elastic to cover the varying conditions throughout the world. In reply other delegates emphasized that a simplified form of certificate does not in itself restrict the requirements.

With the purpose of arriving at a single simplified form of certificate which would be of the widest possible acceptability, the Conference nominated a Certificate Drafting Committee on which all delegations interested were invited to be represented. Adopting the general principle that the main body of the certificate itself, whilst worded in an adequately comprehensive manner, should be free from detail, this Committee drew up a simplified form of certificate, as follows:

CERTIFICATE OF HEALTH FOR PLANTS AND PLANT PRODUCTS

This is to certify
that the plants, parts of plants or plant products described overleaf or representative samples of them were thoroughly examined on (date),..... by (name) an authorized officer of the (service)..... and were found to the best of his knowledge to be substantially free from injurious diseases and pests; and that the consignment is believed to conform with the current requirements of the importing country as registered by the Central Bureau.

Information on disinfestation treatment, and any supplementary statements or special phytosanitary declarations which might be needed to satisfy particular regulations of importing countries, would best be placed in a blank space which should be left for this purpose at the base of the certificate below the main general declaration.

It was fully appreciated that the feasibility of introducing such a simplified form of certificate into general use would be dependent largely on the willingness of importing governments to accept the general statement to the effect that 'the consignment is believed to conform with the current requirements of the importing country'. Governments would need to be satisfied that there was adequate provision for the effective and rapid dissemination of their requirements, and this would best be effected through the agency of a central bureau responsible for the collation and distribution of all information on national plant protection legislation. It is likely that FAO will ultimately assume responsibility for this service, but the Chairman of the Conference announced that pending that development the Danish Government had generously offered to establish the Central Bureau and to operate it for its first year, and that the Netherlands Government was prepared to maintain the Bureau during its second year, at

the end of which period no doubt arrangements for its permanent maintenance would have been made.

The Conference recommended that Governments should consider whether the proposed standard form of certificate covers their plant quarantine requirements, and that they should accept it, to such an extent as may be practicable, as meeting their certification requirements for the importation of plants and plant products.

The need for a centralized information and reporting service

In order effectively to prevent the spread of plant pests and diseases, a number of delegates expressed the belief that all countries should be kept fully informed about outbreaks of new diseases and pests, wherever they may occur. It was stressed that all particulars concerning already existing diseases and pests of international importance should also be freely available to all countries.

The Director of the Agriculture Division of FAO pointed out that at the Fourth Annual Conference of FAO held in November 1948, the Director-General was requested to establish an international reporting service for plant pests and diseases. He reported that the Agriculture Division had, therefore, circulated a questionnaire to FAO member countries with a view to compiling an inventory of existing national reporting services. Replies from 37 countries had been received. These showed a great deal of variation as to national legislation for plant protection, national reporting services, and the training of officers responsible for the enforcement of legislation within the reporting countries. Replies also indicated that current reporting on an international basis was inadequate, and from the information collected it was clear that no adequate international reporting service could be established until on the one hand many existing national services became more efficient, and on the other until such services were established in the many countries where they are still non-existent. A digest of the replies received by FAO in response to its questionnaire had been presented for consideration to the Fifth Annual Conference of FAO in November 1949, and as a result the Director-General was instructed to proceed as expeditiously as possible with the organization of an international reporting service. In view of the limited budget under which FAO operates, the financing of such an undertaking is a matter for considerable concern, and it will therefore have to grow from modest beginnings. It may be necessary to start with only one or a few major diseases or pests, and then gradually widen the scope of work, so that full coverage may not be attained for some considerable time. As a first step FAO will enlist the aid of member countries which have a national reporting service, linking them into an international network through the intermediary

of regional organizations. The reporting of the incidence of plant pests will automatically cause changes in national quarantine regulations. As new and dangerous pests are discovered and reported from certain countries, these and other countries will find it necessary to amend or drop existing quarantine regulations or promulgate new regulations. The result will inevitably be continually changing regulations from all countries. A further important function of the reporting center will therefore be to receive and circulate information on these changes in national legislation. Reference to the need for such dissemination of information on national requirements through a central bureau has already been made above in connection with the discussion on the acceptance of a simplified form of certificate.

The desirability of free interchange of information on new outbreaks of pests and diseases was generally endorsed by the Conference, which recommended that FAO be asked to establish a world-wide reporting service as soon as resources permit. It was also recommended that all countries should establish as reliable and inclusive reporting services as their resources permit. Through them the appearance of new pests and diseases and the incidence of pests and diseases of international importance already prevalent should be reported to regional organizations when such organizations are established, and they in turn would notify interested countries in their regions. However the existence of great difficulties and risks attached to reporting on an international scale was also recognized. Thus the reporting by a country of the first outbreak of a pest or disease may be followed by the immediate imposition of embargos by importing countries. Such prohibitions are likely to encourage general evasion of reporting, which would be most undesirable and likely to lead eventually to great difficulties and much disharmony and distrust. Delegates urged that countries should avoid precipitate prohibitory action on receiving notification of the outbreak of a new pest or disease in another country, rather seeking, by mutual discussion and cooperation, to find a solution satisfactory to all parties concerned — the infested country taking all possible measures to eradicate the new parasite and preclude its distribution, whilst the importing countries concerned alerted and if necessary strengthened their own protection services to such an extent as was warranted in the circumstances. In this way mutual confidence in this particular sector of the field of international relations would be strengthened, to the advantage of all concerned. So important was the provision of opportunity for such mutual discussion between countries considered that the Conference recommended that if one or more importing countries feel threatened by any particular pest or disease, a working group be appointed by FAO or by the appropriate regional organization or organizations to study and advise on the situation.

Recommended abrogation of the Phylloxera Convention, 1881

By a resolution of the Fifth Session of the FAO Conference in Washington, in November 1949, representatives of member Governments made FAO responsible for the development of international action in the field of plant protection and quarantine on a more effective basis than that provided by the two existent agreements — the Phylloxera Convention at Berne, 1881, and the International Plant Protection Convention at Rome, 1929.

The Phylloxera Convention, which was ratified and adhered to by 16 European countries, represented the first international action for coordination in plant protection by means of quarantine measures. It aimed at preventing the spread of the grape phylloxera insect which was threatening the wine industry in Europe. Since the time when this Convention was negotiated, circumstances have materially changed, and the rigid restrictions of the Phylloxera Convention have now become a handicap rather than a benefit to viticulture. An unsuccessful move to revise the Convention was made as early as 1893, and discussions on the desirability of replacing it by regulations in conformity with the International Plant Protection Convention of 1929 were set in motion in 1938. These, however, were terminated by the onset of World War II. During the Third International Grape and Wine Congress at Istanbul in 1947 this matter was again discussed, and a motion was adopted asking the International Wine Office to give further consideration to it. At meetings of its Committee held in 1948 and 1949 delegates from participating countries agreed that under present conditions the control of the grape phylloxera could be effectively carried on under the provisions of the International Plant Protection Convention. The Committee of the International Wine Office later adopted a resolution to the effect that the States signatories to the Phylloxera Convention be invited to withdraw from it and that all vine-growing countries be invited to adhere to the International Plant Protection Convention.

So far France, which withdrew from the Phylloxera Convention in December last, is the only country which has responded to this resolution, but preliminary discussions have indicated that other countries signatories to the Phylloxera Convention would also be willing to do so. Since all necessary provisions which should be retained from the Phylloxera Convention will be included in the revision of the International Plant Protection Convention now in preparation by FAO (see below), and which it is hoped will be negotiated in the near future, the Conference, on a motion of the delegate of Switzerland, recommended abrogation of the Phylloxera Convention.

On the basis of painstaking preparatory work carried out by the International Institute of Agriculture from 1923 onwards the International Plant Protection Convention was drawn up, and it was agreed to at a meeting in 1929 in Rome in which representatives from 46 countries participated. However, of these countries only 26 signed the Convention, and only 16 later ratified the instrument; six additional countries adhered subsequently. These figures indicate that the Convention has never been a very effective instrument. This was due partly to the very rapidly changing conditions in plant protection, and very considerably to the tension that reigned in the following decade and which was followed by the second World War.

In order to provide more effective international cooperation in the prevention of the introduction and spread of pests and diseases of plants and plant products, the legislative body of FAO instructed the Director-General to proceed with the preparation of a revised draft of the 1929 Convention. A first draft revision was submitted by FAO to the conference at The Hague for discussion, and the guiding principles on which it had been prepared were expounded. It was intended that the Convention should be a flexible instrument easily adaptable to changing conditions. Thus no attempt had been made to incorporate all details in the Convention itself, which should be considered more as a framework of basic principles. The more detailed provisions would be contained in agreements under the Convention which could be easily amended and conveniently adapted to regional requirements or to specific subjects. For example, several countries might wish to come to a special agreement on a pest or disease of regional importance, in which case it would be possible to draw up Conventions, such as those established in Africa or south-eastern Asia, under the overall Plant Protection Convention, thereby making the whole instrument easier and lighter. As regards subject-matter agreements, by way of example it was pointed out that it would be extremely difficult to draft at this time a formal convention for the purpose of controlling diseases and pests carried by aviation since there is so far so little experience existent in this field. By choosing the form of agreements, amendments could be made from year to year, thus making use of experience gained.

There is also provision in the draft for the establishment of agreements on the control of insect pests in stored products, or for the control of seed-borne pests and diseases. In the latter case such action would, of course, be taken in cooperation with the International Seed Testing Association.

To provide the required flexibility in the Convention for the negotiation of such agreements and

amendments, a procedure had been adopted which the World Health Organization has found particularly effective in administering the World Sanitary Convention, whereby it is no longer the government of a signatory country that acts as the depository of the Convention and undertakes to convene meetings for revisions and additions, but an appropriate international organization of the signatory countries. This means that where amendments are necessary these can be considered at the FAO Annual Conference, thus avoiding the necessity for organizing special meetings. For all such cases FAO will, of course, discuss proposed amendments with specialists at informal meetings prior to the Annual Conference. Such a procedure, therefore, dispenses with the more cumbersome diplomatic procedure connected with the earlier form of convention. It may necessitate a slight modification in the Constitution of FAO. This question is being examined, and can, if necessary, be dealt with at the next Annual Conference of FAO. The Convention can, therefore, also come into force at that time. If the FAO Constitution is amended, then a provision will also be introduced to the effect that formal ratification of the detailed agreements under the Convention will not be necessary, such agreements, following adoption by the FAO Conference, coming into effect after a given interval without ratification. Provision would, of course, be incorporated for rejection or reservation on the part of those Governments to whom the agreements were unacceptable in whole or in part, by appropriate notification to the Director-General of FAO. Such a course would much simplify the procedure adopted in the past.

The Conference expressed full agreement with the principles on which the draft Convention had been based, and discussed the individual Articles at length. Many suggestions were made, and FAO was asked, and readily agreed, to take these into consideration in preparing a further revision. The Conference recommended that following such revision and subsequent review by Governments the Convention should be submitted for consideration to the next FAO Conference. In order to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the proposed Convention, including the necessary reporting services and the exchange of information on national plant quarantine legislation, the Conference also recommended that steps be taken to establish regional plant protection organizations.

The European Plant Protection Organization

The Conference recognized the steps already taken to establish under the aegis of the International Plant Protection Convention a European Plant Protection Organization. Such action was recommended at the Fourth European Colorado Beetle Conference held in Florence in January 1950.

European delegates to the Conference were given an opportunity to meet separately to discuss this matter and had before them draft articles governing the establishment of the Organization. At this meeting the FAO representatives made it clear that while the meeting up of the Organization had the whole-hearted support of FAO, it was their desire that it should function as a fully autonomous and financially independent body.

Delegates to the meeting raised several questions of principle on the draft articles, and these were referred to a Drafting Committee consisting of representatives of Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, on which FAO undertook to help if possible. It was agreed that the revised draft should then be circulated to the various Governments affected, this circulation being done by the Netherlands Government. Later in the year an European Conference might be convened in Paris to consider *inter alia* the revised draft.

* * *

Since the Hague Conference, considerable progress has been made in putting its recommendations into effect. On the basis of the recognition by the Conference that the Phylloxera Convention is no longer an effective instrument, FAO has invited the States signatories to it to forward to the Swiss Federal Council, the depository Government, a declaration of their intention to withdraw from the Convention. At the same time a further revision of the International Plant Protection Convention, prepared by the FAO Secretariat in accordance with the Conference suggestions, was circulated to Governments for their consideration and will be submitted for approval to the next session of the FAO Conference to be held in Washington in November 1950. If such approval is obtained, it is planned that the Convention should immediately be open for signature.

7th International Botanical Congress

FAO was represented in the 7th International Botanical Congress which was held in Stockholm from 11-20 July 1950, and which was attended by 1,500 members representing more than 40 countries. It was organized into 15 sections covering every branch of botanical sciences. Approximately 600 technical papers were presented. During the Congress, a session on weed control was held, after which a small group of specialists on that subject from Denmark, England, Sweden and the U.S.A. was invited by FAO to discuss informally various aspects of the application of weed killers. The results obtained in the Congress will be subsequently incorporated into an FAO publication on hormone weed killers which is in preparation in accord with a recommendation of the FAO Conference.



VITICULTURE

VIth International Vine and Wine Congress

(Athens — 24 August to 2 September 1950)

The VIth International Vine and Wine Congress, Considering the extension in vineyards in the world and the progressive return of the productive capacity of the wine-growing countries which suffered severely through the war ;

Considering, on the other hand, the slump in wines, the already acute depression in some countries, and the serious economic and social consequential effects which might result ;

Considering, moreover, the difficulties in exporting and in increasing markets, the exportation of wine often being impeded by different economic, financial and monetary measures and restrictions ;

Considering, lastly, in comparison with the consumption in the world of the various highly spirituous liquors, the markedly lower consumption of wine, a wholesome beverage whose moderate and appropriate use is the only means likely to counteract alcoholism effectively, by tending to improve the taste of the consumer, to accustom the palate to a choice beverage like wine, thus creating a sort of physiological curb and a natural repugnance to the drinking, and especially the immoderate drinking, of strong alcoholic beverages ;

Recommends the Governments concerned :

to take now and henceforth the measures necessary for improving the quality of wines, from production through to consumption ;

to make an appreciable reduction in the duties and taxes on the importation, transport or sale of wine, so as to promote normal consumption of wine :

to apply, in particular, a special customs tariff for name-brand wines, whatever their alcoholic content :

to put before the Council of FAO the question of including wine in the international commodity agreements, with a view to promoting trade between countries and the use of this table beverage in diets, since the moderate use of wine is generally considered as being particularly recommendable from the economic, social and health standpoint ;

to contribute, in agreement with the viti-vinicultural associations, to the extension of propaganda in favour of the moderate use of wine, on both national and international levels ; and to this end, to encourage particularly the dissemination of the formula 'Meals, wine included', by all appropriate means ;

to institute an intensive propaganda program on the national broadcasting stations, dealing with wine from the general point of view, emphasizing the importance of its moderate use and its eminent hygienic physiological qualities ;

that intensive propaganda in favour of wine be undertaken throughout the world by the national propaganda organizations in the different countries ; and that organizations of this kind be established in all countries where they do not yet exist ;

that a mutual policy of propaganda for increasing the consumption of wine in the world be adopted by the International Wine Office and followed, under its guidance, by the national organizations thus established.



RURAL WELFARE

The countrywoman's everyday tasks

In early March 1950 the Farmers' Association of France held a congress on 'making women's work on the farm easier', and the Ministry of Agriculture organized seminars on instruction in domestic economy.

It was seen how overwhelming is the work the countrywoman in France — and undoubtedly in many other European countries — still has to do today, which is the reason why far too often the young women abandon the rural areas to look for work in the towns. A survey showed that the majority of the women rise at 4 o'clock in the morning and frequently work until 11 p.m. or midnight because of the many tasks they have to carry out in the fields, on the farm with the livestock and in the house. During the congress attention was drawn to the importance of electrification — according to an official report of the Ministry of Agriculture, 3 million French farmers have no electric power facilities — water being laid on, using modern machines, milking and washing machines, etc. During the discussions it was stressed that the education of the young peasant women should be based on the development of moral qualities, strength of character, sense of duty and mutual assistance and the desire to improve themselves. An effort should also be made to develop the different forms of co-operative systems likely to help women in their work : cooperatives for the joint sale of eggs, butter, fruit, dairy products, cooperatives for hatching chicks, cooking potatoes for ensilage, canning and bottling foodstuffs, laundry work, cold storage, etc. Ration-alizing work, and the changes and improvements required in farm houses were also discussed.



FAO ACTIVITIES

Dodd appraises food situation after world tour

Director-General Norris E. Dodd of the Food and Agriculture Organization returned last month from a five-month visit to member nations of FAO. He traveled more than 47,000 miles, almost twice the distance around the earth. He talked on farms to little farmers and big farmers, to ministers of food, ministers of trade, prime ministers and presidents. Here is the gist of his observations on :

War and Peace : Everywhere I have travelled for FAO — in Asia and the Far East, in Latin America and the Near East — the trouble spots I found were rooted in poverty and privation, hunger and malnutrition. I have seen families with only one sheet among them. When one member went to town or away from home, he wore the sheet. The rest stayed at home naked, without a thing to wrap in. Prices have gone up so that hunger is a daily acquaintance with millions. That is the fuel which feeds the hot little wars and the smoldering little wars going on in so many places. They get less attention than the so-called cold war, but they are likewise a grave and constant threat to the peace of this planet.

Food and People : World agricultural production is up 9 percent since 1938, but world population has increased more than 9 percent since the beginning of World War II. Our postwar agricultural recovery rate so far is barely keeping up with population increases.

Distribution : The world has to find some more sensible answers to distribution problems than we have been able to agree upon so far. But you can't lick a distribution problem by having too little to distribute. Improving the production of food is indispensable. Furthermore, the great and dangerous areas of scarcity cannot and will not have enough to eat by importing it — they can only do so by growing it. Only something like 10 percent of the world's food crosses any border before it is eaten.

What Can Be Done : Our main task is to help countries and people to help themselves. If the world is to be better fed, there are big jobs to be done in agriculture (developing new agricultural lands, improving roads, establishing good soil conservation practices, etc.) but all these will take a great deal of time to come into bearing. There are many simpler things that can increase production sooner, now,

while it is so much needed to support and feed larger, slower developments. Farmers in ill-fed regions of prewar and present scarcities still lack such primary essentials as efficient farm implements, fertilizers, pesticides and good seed. By efficient farm implements I don't necessarily mean tractors and combines. I mean things as simple as scythes instead of sickles to start with. I've made a guess that half the world's grain is still harvested with sickles. I don't think I'm far out in that... I'm dead sure that the overwhelming proportion of the world's crops is grown from seed that isn't as good as simple selection would provide, and far less good than the plant breeders can produce. The underdeveloped countries need trained personnel to carry the research findings and the information about improved methods direct to the farmers. Often the practices of the farmers are rooted in traditions dating back for centuries.

Teaching Newer Ways : I never saw a farmer anywhere — Moslem, Hindu, Buddhist, or Christian — who wouldn't take to a method which he could see with his own eyes would put another bushel of grain in the bin. It will take demonstration to convince them and trusted teachers from among their own people to persuade them to change to newer ways. By improving on what farmers already know, and by improving the tools they already have, we can feed the world a lot better than it has ever been fed — if we'll just all of us get at the job.

Seed Distribution : What better ambassadors of peace in the world than good seed ? Cereals, legumes, grasses, oilseeds, root crops, and vegetables have always been great travellers across the face of the earth. FAO is making them carry the promise of larger bounty to all people. Some 199 of our cultivated plants originated in the Old World and 45 in America. From Europe and Asia came wheat, barley, oats, rye, soybeans, sugar beets, sugar cane and many others. America's great contributions have been corn, potatoes, and tobacco, while Africa gave us sorghum and cowpeas. In this international seed activity, FAO plans to have a world-wide international program for plant improvement, production and distribution which will accomplish for all countries what has been done with improved varieties here and in other advanced countries.

Point Four : When the Point Four program gets under way FAO will be working in a larger way with other international agencies than our present limited funds permit. We are concerned with increasing the production and improving the distribution of the products of farms, forests and fisheries, with health, education, transportation and industrial development. These must all go along together... We have well staffed international organizations to assist nations needing assistance ... Scientific knowledge, not yet fully put to work, can in-

crease agricultural production where people are now hungry, unclothed, ill-sheltered. Better farming and better nutrition are the foundation stones of higher standards of living, more purchasing power, better markets, and peace among peoples.

FAO offers help in Korea

On 2 August 1950 the Director-General N.E.Dodd of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations sent the following telegram to Trygve Lie, Secretary General of the United Nations at Lake Success :

'In conformity with Resolution adopted by Security Council thirtyfirst July concerning relief for civilian population of Korea and in accordance with terms of agreement between UN and FAO I have the honor to inform you that FAO as the United Nations agency responsible for action in field of food and agriculture stands ready to offer all possible assistance consonant with its objectives and powers. FAO dedicated to principle of freedom from want of food is most concerned with humanitarian aspects of problem; as you know last FAO Conference established special governmental Committee to consider problem of food surpluses and possibility of providing for distribution on special terms to those peoples in need. This Committee is in position to determine sources of food commodities readily available now would welcome opportunity for preliminary discussion needs and requirements and to plan methods for providing relief with you and with the Directors General of the other agencies concerned and with the appropriate organs of the United Nations. I am prepared to send a representative to consult with the Unified Command on requirements and procedures for providing needed assistance in field of food and agriculture'.

In connection with his message Director General Dodd pointed out that FAO as the international agency responsible for fostering intergovernmental cooperation in the fields of food and agriculture is in position to mobilize all available aid in accordance with the United Nations proposals for the relief of hunger among civilians in Korea. For example FAO could solicit contributions of foods from member Governments, it could arrange for the purchase of foods at reduced prices, it could solicit gifts from private agencies and persons, it could send experts in special feeding problems and in agricultural rehabilitation. Since the 1949 Conference FAO has had a 14 government committee on commodity problems at present under the chairmanship of Dr G.S.H. Barton of Canada (Ottawa) at work inquiring into surplus food problems in member countries and into food needs in deficiency areas which might be met in whole or in part through the use of surplus commodities. The Chairman of the Committee has been informed of the communication to the Secre-

tary General of the United Nations. This Committee already has had some firm offers of surplus foods for sale at nominal prices and it is in position quickly to learn of other available foods should there be a request for aid to Korea under the terms of the UN Security Council Resolution of 31 July.

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A meeting took place on 5 September between Mr Boerma assisted by experts of the European Regional Office and the Italian FAO National Committee and discussion were held on technical assistance and the U.S. offer to make available certain surplus commodities at reduced prices.

As far as technical assistance is concerned the Committee decided to set up an Ad Hoc Working Party to study Italy's program for agricultural development and on the basis of its findings to define specific technical assistance projects. On completion of this work a further meeting will be called at which FAO and ECA representatives can agree upon a division of activities, in this way avoiding duplication of efforts on the part of both organizations.

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The U. S. offer to make available certain quantities of certain surplus foodstuffs at nominal prices has aroused great interest in Italy. The Italian Government will investigate the possibility of making use of these commodities for supplementary feeding programs in communities where nutritional deficiencies exist. In this case also it is intended to establish a special Ad Hoc Committee composed of representatives of the various interested Ministries. The task of this Committee will be to examine thoroughly the U. S. offer in the light of its significance from both the health and economic point of view, and to study what measures must be taken to ensure that the foodstuffs in question do not come into private trade, etc. The result of the deliberations of the group will be reported to FAO as soon as possible.

Mr Boerma also discussed this question of surplus foodstuffs with Prof. Bonomelli, Holy See Observer, who promised that the Holy See would do its best to promote the objectives of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

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Mr Boerma, accompanied by Dr Silow of the Agriculture Division, attended the meeting on land and water utilization and conservation which was held in Amsterdam from 19 to 21 July 1950.

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Mr McDougall represented FAO at a meeting in Geneva of the Technical Assistance Board on 31 July, the Technical Assistance Conference on 1 August, and the Coordinating Committee of ECOSOC, at which FAO's Report was presented.

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Mr Rosenfeld spent a day in Berne to discuss statistical matters with the Swiss authorities. He will stay about a month in Yugoslavia in order to assist the Central Statistics Office in Belgrade, with particular reference to the application of sampling methods in crop estimating.

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Dr Wahlen stopped in Rome en route from Cairo to Geneva to discuss various matters relating to the work of the Agriculture Division in Europe.

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The European Tobacco Conference, held in Rome from 10 to 13 September 1950, was attended by Mr Boerma and Dr Silow as observers on behalf of FAO.

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Dr Moskovits of the Agriculture Division attended the following technical meetings: Meeting of the International Dairy Federation in Amsterdam, 25-29 September; Meeting of the OEEC Working Party on Grassland Improvement, Paris, 2-3 October; Study Meeting of the European Association for Animal Production, Ghent, 10-14 October 1950. (see pp. 148-149).

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Mr Girard, fisheries expert of the European Office arrived in Bergen on 21 September to attend the meeting on Herring Technology.

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Before leaving on official visits to Germany and Finland, the Nutrition Representative had discussions in Geneva with WHO experts, who had just returned from Finland, concerning the dairy question in that country.

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Mr Latsky, FAO nutritionist, recently visited Finland and Portugal to discuss nutrition work with the authorities there; suggestions on technical assistance were also examined. With Mr McDougall and UNICEF representatives Mr Latsky studied the possibility of arranging school meals in Portugal with the assistance of UNICEF. This question was also discussed by Mr Latsky with the Portuguese National Committee.

In Yugoslavia the nutrition representative of FAO studied the suggestions submitted in regard to technical assistance and dietary survey methods, in collaboration with WHO.

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The FAO officer charged with agricultural engineering questions examined the agricultural mechanization situation in Portugal and Spain.

A survey on the implements and equipment employed on small farms is being drawn up.

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Dr G.L. Kesteven, FAO Regional Fisheries Representative, left Bangkok for Manila on 22 August to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee of the FAO sponsored **Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council**. The Committee reviewed the activities of the Council since its last session held in Cronulla, Australia last April, and laid plans for further lines of research. Other members of the committee were Dr J.F. Hardenberg of Indonesia and Dr D. Villadolid of the Philippines.

While in Manila, Dr Kesteven also discussed possible projects in the field of fisheries under the United Nations expanded technical assistance program with officials of the Philippine Government.

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A meeting of representatives of FAO and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development was held to discuss the progress in activities of mutual concern to both organizations. The Bank expressed interest in the replies FAO received to the enquiries on **investment**, and asked that duplicate copies of all **specific development projects** in needs of financing, which are reported by countries, be supplied to them for their information.

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An expert of the FAO Nutrition Division recently attended a meeting of the **Council of the International Union of Child Welfare** in London.

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Dr J. Frietema of the Netherlands, invited by the Burmese Government to study **rural welfare problems** in their country, visited the European Regional Office on 5 August, on his way to Burma, to collect FAO publications which could be useful for his work.

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As recommended by the Fourth and Fifth FAO Conferences, the Agriculture Division is making all possible preparations toward the establishment of a **world reporting service on plant diseases and insect pests**, making use of the information provided by WHO on methods of reporting human diseases.

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Mr Cameron, of FAO Forestry Division, returned to Geneva on 15 August, from his **mission to Ireland** where he went at the request of the Government to advise on the country's **reforestation programme**.

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FAO is examining draft agreements concerning **technical assistance** with Colombia, Peru, and Yugoslavia, and also requests received in this regard from India, Syria and Venezuela.

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The first agreement under the **technical assistance programme** concerns **forestry** and is ready for signature by Guatemala.

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Miss Hockin went to Switzerland and Yugoslavia in July and August to discuss **rural welfare** problems.

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Following the staff visit to Yugoslavia, that country requested the return of an FAO expert later in 1950 to advise on current **agricultural statistics**.

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Three irrigation experts from Yugoslavia, Messrs Jovan Djeritch and Milan Bojitch, water-supply engineers, and Mr Petar Jakovljevitich, agriculturist, visited the FAO European Regional Office on 19 July last, and were provided with documentation required for their work. They have been assigned the study of land improvement and irrigation in Egypt and Italy, in view of the wide programme of irrigation and drainage planned by the Yugoslav Government for inclusion within the UN Technical Assistance Programme in Yugoslavia.

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Mr W.H. Cummings, head of the FAO Far Eastern Regional Office, left Bangkok for Rangoon where he discussed with Burmese officials implementation of the United Nations expanded technical assistance program. It is expected that as a result of Mr Cummings' visit, definite agreements will be signed between FAO and the government of Burma.

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Pursuant to a recommendation by the European Committee on Agricultural Technology held in Geneva in March 1950, a steering committee was convened on 10 July in London to discuss **FAO's assistance in the coordination of agricultural research in Europe**. Dr W. K. Slater, U.K., Mr C. Staf, Netherlands, and Dr R. P. Braconnier, France, were asked for views on the procedure to be followed. It was recommended that FAO proceed with the publication of *a list of research institutes*, containing the names of directors and scientific workers by fields of activity. A questionnaire will be prepared seeking information on the methods followed and the stage reached in the national coordination of research. Proposals for coordination on the international level will be evolved after working over the

material received. On FAO's side, the meeting was attended by Dr. Wahlen, Director of the Agriculture Division, Mr. A. H. Boerma, Regional Representative in Europe and Dr. I. Moskovits.

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The Committee on Commodity Problems met on 26 and 27 July to give further consideration to the Report of the Ninth Session of the Council of FAO. After a general discussion, a subcommission was appointed to make a more detailed examination of the Council's suggestions and to report to the Committee at its next meeting.

FAO Publications

The 1950 July issue of the *Monthly Bulletin Food and Agricultural Statistics* features a table 'Age composition of the rural and urban population of selected countries'. A breakdown of total population by rural and urban groups is given for 21 countries, for the age groups under 15 years, 15-59, and 60 and over. These countries show a much larger proportion in the 15-59 years old group in urban areas. Rural areas, due to higher birth rates and migration of young adults to cities, have a larger proportion of their population in the economically dependent age group under 15.

Production and trade tables include sugar, potatoes, olives, dairy products, and chicken numbers. Olive oil production in 1949 at one million metric tons was twice the 1948 production and above prewar. The postwar increase in the production of dairy products continued through 1949 and output approaches or surpasses prewar in most countries. Meat production in 1949 in Europe was generally below prewar levels, except in France, Portugal and Sweden. Data for 1949 for other continents are still incomplete but Canada, United States, Union of South Africa, and Australia and New Zealand all continued to have substantially higher meat production than in prewar years.

In addition to the monthly wheat and rice price tables, prices of potatoes, beef, pigs, and sheep are included. The wide spread of prices expressed in dollars has narrowed considerably since devaluation.

Prices of wheat in the four major exporting countries are closer together than has been the case in recent years. In importing countries the range has also narrowed greatly.

Domestic prices in local currency mirror general price inflation within some countries. In most countries wheat prices increased up to three times the prewar level. France, Italy, and Japan, however, show huge price rises, e. g., 160 times for Japan, which by frequent currency devaluations are no longer apparent in the dollar equivalent prices.

It is interesting to note that domestic meat prices have generally gone up more than prices of primary commodities such as wheat and potatoes.

The retail food price index gives little evidence of a decline in food prices for 1949; for most countries the postwar increase in food prices is being maintained.

A short discussion of the world wheat situation completes the July issue of the Bulletin.

(From Bi-weekly Report from Washington for period ending 17 July).

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Consolidation of fragmented agricultural holdings.
— *FAO Agricultural Studies*, No 12, 2 tables and 6 pairs of comparative maps).

The division of a single farm holding into scattered plots is common in many countries. Sometimes a moderate degree of such division is inevitable, harmless or even beneficial, but usually fragmentation causes diminution in the current agricultural efficiency of a holding, and hinders or prevents the introduction of improvements, or of better agricultural practices. Its existence is thus highly relevant to FAO's functions of introducing new farming knowledge, improving agricultural technique, increasing production and bettering the lot of rural populations.

The first of the two parts of this study contains a general account of the cause and effects of fragmentation, of preventive or remedial measures, and of the financial implications of such measures. The second part consists of authoritative national studies of the problem contributed by four member countries: Denmark, Ireland, Switzerland and France.

This method of presentation permits the inclusion of factual accounts both of actual situations and of remedial measures actually adopted, without undertaking the gigantic task of effectively summarizing the world situation and without an unprofitable attempt to prescribe a procedure for prevention and remedy to fit all cases. In each selected country the problem is, or has been, vital and urgent, and is being, or has been, effectively attacked, but there are interesting differences. In Denmark the attack began long ago and has been almost completely successful; in Ireland the situation has been complicated by congestion of population on the fragmented lands; in Switzerland the mountainous terrain and the autonomy of the cantons introduced special difficulties; while France is a large country, in which, though the problem was understood and enabling legislation enacted long ago, effective attack has only been quite recent.

The monograph has been prepared by Sir Bernard O. Binns of the Land Use Branch of FAO's Agriculture Division.

Progress and Economic Problems in Farm Mechanization. Although the term mechanization, as applied to farming, ideally covers all types of tools and equipment from the simple digging stick to the most complex piece of power-operated machinery, this mono-

graph deals almost exclusively with *factory-built power- and animal-operated equipment*. It is intended primarily to provide a broad background of factual information and some analysis of trends and problems for government officials and others engaged in framing policies for raising the standard of agricultural methods.

The first part shows world and regional totals of tractors and draft animals in use over a period of 20 years and describes recent trends in production and international trade affecting both tractors and other farm machinery. Notwithstanding a doubling of world tractor numbers between 1930 and 1939 and again in the next decade, it appears that roughly 85 percent of total draft power in world agriculture was still contributed by work animals in 1948. Furthermore, mechanical power is concentrated in the technically developed countries of North America, Europe, the U.S.S.R., and Oceania; all other regions of the world combined had less than ten percent of world's tractors in 1948. In general, labor-saving machinery has been introduced where wages in agriculture are high and there is a shortage of agricultural workers.

Production of modern power- and animal-operated farm machinery is also concentrated in the technically advanced regions. North America and Western Europe are the only regions which produce substantially more than is required for their domestic needs. The annual volume of exports from these areas nearly trebled between 1939 and 1948 partly to fulfil demands arising from the extension of power-farming practices and partly to compensate for shortage of supplies during World War II when trade was interrupted. There is evidence that the backlog of orders was largely filled by the end of 1948 and that the subsequent rate of imports by the importing countries is being maintained at a much higher level than before the war. Balance-of-payments difficulties with the dollar area have proved to be a serious obstacle. Some general economic factors involved in the introduction and use of power-operated equipment are considered.

The second part of this review is a more detailed regional examination of farm machinery in use, production, exports and imports on a country basis in the eight major regions of the world, *i.e.*, North America, Europe, U.S.S.R., Latin America, Far East, Near East, Africa, and Oceania. In addition some of the main related trends in the agricultural economy of each region are examined and attention drawn to some of the major obstacles standing in the way of raising the standard of farm equipment and the productivity of agricultural labor. The striking reduction in the number of workers in agriculture that has accompanied mechanization in North America and parts of Europe is illustrated; the effect of small fragmented holdings in limiting progress is referred to in Europe, the Far East, Africa, and other regions. A general factor restricting the use of improved farm

equipment is lack of the necessary capital on the part of farmers to buy efficient machinery in view of its high price. Practices adopted to overcome these obstacles are illustrated with examples drawn from experience in the various regions. The need for adequate provision of fuel, spare parts, repair facilities and the training of operators and mechanics for the proper use of machinery is stressed if economic benefits are to be derived from its introduction. The importance of further progress in the design of machinery adapted to the needs of underdeveloped regions is also emphasized.

In no part of the world has farm mechanization reached a final stage. Lessons learned in one area may prove applicable to others, but it is essential that equipment problems should be considered in relation to the conditions, both physical and economic, which prevail not only in each broad region but also in the actual farming area where machinery is to be used.

This monograph was prepared by A.M. Accock of the Economics Division. He had the benefit of frequent consultation with specialists in the Agriculture Division of FAO.

* * *

The French and Spanish editions of FAO Agricultural Development Paper No 3, 'Essential Steps in National Agricultural Improvement' have now been issued under the following titles: **Mesures Essentielles au Développement Agricole National** and **Medidas Esenciales para el Mejoramiento Agrícola Nacional**, respectively and are now being distributed to the French and Spanish speaking FAO Member Countries.

* * *

Essential Considerations in Mechanization of Farming, No 5 of FAO Development Papers, has just been published. This paper gives attention to the problems connected with mechanization of farming and is designed for the guidance of agricultural leaders who are undertaking to introduce mechanization in areas where farmers have had little or no experience with power equipment.

* * *

FAO Development Paper No 6, entitled **Improving Livestock under Tropical and Subtropical Conditions**, has just been issued. It was edited by Ralph W. Phillips and contains a report of the FAO meeting on livestock breeding under tropical and subtropical conditions held in Lucknow, U.P., India, 13-22 February 1950. It summarizes the principal problems raised at this meeting and the conclusions reached.

* * *

The Legislation Service of the FAO has undertaken the publication of a mimeographed bulletin in two languages, English and French: **Legislative Information** — **'Informations législatives'**.

The Legislative Information appears at irregular intervals in booklets of 50 to 60 pages, containing generally *original articles* written by eminent specialists of different countries on a juridical agricultural subject of topical interest; *legislative or comparative law notes*; a survey of the *current agricultural legislation* and *reviews of legal publications or journals*. For reasons of economy, this material, when given in English, Spanish, French, Italian or Portuguese, is inserted in the original language only. In the case of other languages, the originals are translated into English or French.

Prominence is given to international multipartite or bipartite agreements relating to agriculture. In addition to the text of the international acts, it is intended to report and keep up to date the adhesions, ratifications and withdrawals of each act.

It is to be noted that the Legislative Service of FAO holds at the disposal of anyone interested the text of the legislative measures which are indicated by title only in the Current Legislation chapter.

'Legislative Information' is sent to member governments and to the National Committees of FAO, as well as to the principal agricultural organizations. Some copies are available to individuals who may apply to the Sales and Publications Service of the European Regional Office of FAO, Villa Borghese, Rome.

Three numbers of the 'Legislative Information' have already come out. The first in May, the second in July and the third in September 1950. These three numbers contain, *inter alia*, an article on agricultural law in Australia, by Prof. Turner of the Melbourne University; an article on the right of stay of farmers in Cuba, by Dr de Montagu, Judge of the Supreme Court of Habana; an article on Swiss Federal legislation on fishery, by Mr Petitmermet, Inspector General of Forests and lastly, an article by Prof. Voirin, University of Nancy, on the 'propriété dite culturale' in the new French statute relative to tenant farming.

The chapter on current agricultural legislation for 1950 inserted in the three numbers which have already come out, exactly indicates the legislative provisions decreed during the early months of 1950 in the following 40 countries: Algeria, Australia (Commonwealth, Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania), Belgium, Brazil, Canada (Province of Quebec and Saskatchewan), Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, French West Africa (Government General and the colonies of Dahomey and French Guinea), Finland, Germany, Gold Coast, Guatemala, India, Italy, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Oceania (French settlements), Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America and Uruguay.

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The manuscripts of the first two studies to be published in the Forestry series have been approved

by the Editorial Board. These are **Planning of a National Forest Inventory and Forest Policy, Law, and Administration.**

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The report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Nutrition has been printed by WHO. In this connection a mailing list of nutrition workers and institutions throughout the world was prepared at the request of WHO, WHO having no such list available to it at the present time.

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The Spanish editions of the **Fisheries Bulletin** Volume III, N° 3, and **World Fisheries Abstracts**, Vol. I, N° 2, have been distributed.



U N O

UNESCO

The Executive Council of UNESCO met in Paris from 26 August to 2 September 1950 and recommended that the date of opening of the sixth session of the General Conference of UNESCO be fixed at 18 June 1951 and that the Conference last not longer than three weeks. This sixth session will be held at the seat of the Organization in Paris.

UN Children's Endowment Fund to be set up

The Social Committee of the Economic and Social Council has resolved that, 'with a view to insuring the uninterrupted continuation and development of the activities of the International Children's Emergency Fund, there should be continued a UN Fund for Children to be known as the UN International Children's Endowment Fund (UNICEF)'.

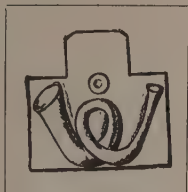
The new office is charged with providing supplies, training services, and advisory assistance in support of the recipient countries' permanent programmes for children; and meeting relief needs in cases of serious emergencies.

The resolution further provides that there shall be established a United Nations Children's Board composed of the governments represented on the Social Commission and of other governments, not necessarily members of the United Nations, designed by the Economic and Social Council.

The UNCB shall take all necessary steps to assure the close collaboration of the Fund with the specialized agencies.

The Executive Director of the Fund shall be appointed by the Secretary-General, after consultation with the United Nations Children's Baard, and shall be responsible to him; the staff and facilities required for the administration of the Fund shall be provided by the Secretary-General.

The central administrative expenses of the Fund shall be covered by appropriations in the regular budget of the United Nations.



NEWS IN GENERAL

The 11th Session of the Economic and Social Council

The 11th Session of the Economic and Social Council, held in Geneva from 3 July to 16 August, was attended by representatives from 16 countries, observers from 7 others, representatives from the UN specialized agencies and from numerous non-governmental organizations.

Mr Olsen, FAO observer, reported that there were a number of items of major importance to FAO on the agenda, as well as several of routine interest.

One item of importance was the discussion on full employment and the resulting resolution calling for a wide study of international trade and a study on unemployment and under-employment in countries.

Second, a debate on the Regional Economic Commissions resulted in an interesting resolution calling for direct collaboration between the Executive Secretaries of ECLA and ECE on inter-regional trade with respect to specific commodities. Pioneer work in the field is already being done by the Forestry Division of FAO and ECE in the preparation of the European Timber Study. In this general connection, the debate and particularly the intervention of India on the Report of the ICCICA were also of interest. The Indian delegate asked for a re-examination of the current position, in view of the unlikelihood of the ITO's coming into existence for at least two years. Another item of major interest was the first meeting of the TAC, and the two very helpful speeches made at this meeting by the delegates of the United States and Australia. The meeting was entirely satisfactory, and its main conclusions have been circulated to members of the Inter-Divisional Working Group on Technical Assistance. In addition, three sessions of the TAB were held, the results of which have also been summarized for the Inter-Divisional Working Group.

A resolution was adopted empowering ECOSOC to meet in continuous session to deal with the Korean situation.

Matters of routine interest included the review of FAO's annual report to ECOSOC, and the report produced by the Coordination Committee of ECOSOC.

General Assembly of the CEA

The General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture (CEA) was held in Strasbourg from 25 September to 1 October 1950. The Chairman, Prof. Laur, gave notice of his decision to resign from the chairmanship of the Confederation established two years ago to protect and represent the interests of European agriculture in world economy. Pending the nomination of another chairman, Prof. Howald conducted the proceedings of the General Assembly. Four special commissions discussed the following questions:

Rural economy and social policy, in particular 'production and fertility of the small and medium-sized farm' and 'methods for determining farming returns: production costs, earning capacity, purchasing power'. *Agricultural technique, science and auxiliary agents of agriculture*, four subjects: 'problems entailed in preventive vaccination against bovine tuberculosis', 'utilization of skimmed milk', 'coordination in plant protection', 'standardization of agricultural tractors'. *Cooperation, mutual insurance, agricultural association and syndicalism and agricultural credit*, in particular, 'the object, mission and limit of agricultural cooperatives', 'problems of agricultural cooperative credit', 'cooperative trade'. Lastly, *Rural domestic economy and living conditions*, 'housing of the peasant family', 'lightening woman's work', 'rural costumes', 'vocational examinations for peasant women'.

International Wheat Council

The Third Session of the *International Wheat Council*, which began on 19 June, had before it two substantive issues: the applications for admission from Japan and Spain. Since the exporting countries were unable to present an arrangement whereby the admission of Japan would not prejudice the supply and economic interests of signatory importing countries, the overwhelming majority felt unable to agree to the admission of Japan. Spain was admitted (as had been Germany previously) on a conditional basis. The present officers were re-elected to serve for the next wheat year. FAO presented a written report on the world cereal situation and a verbal statement which reviewed developments during 1950 and the supply-demand outlook for 1951.

Congress of the International Landworkers' Federation

The Congress of the International Landworkers' Federation took place in Zurich from 3 to 5 June 1950, and was attended by delegations from Austria,

Denmark, England, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Sweden and Switzerland; the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Federation of Building and Wood Workers, FAO, ILO.

The Congress discussed, *inter alia*, the question of the relations between the International Landworkers' Federation and IFAP, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, FAO and the ILO.

Several amendments have been made in the regulations of the Federation. The new Executive Committee of the Federation has been nominated, with Mr E. G. Gooch (United Kingdom) as President, Mr A. J. de Ruijter (Netherlands), Secretary, and Mr E. Jansson (Sweden), Member.

International Sugar Council

The International Sugar Council and its Special Policy Committee met from 26-30 June in London to discuss some of the fundamental principles of a new sugar agreement. Representatives of 19 governments and observers from 8 others were present, as well as an FAO observer. After a week of constant discussion, it was felt that there was sufficient basic agreement to proceed with the work. Accordingly the Council established a special Working Party (on which FAO was represented) to begin the drafting of a text of an agreement. The Working Party met twice daily for a period of about two weeks and produced a draft of a text. This draft was presented to the Policy Committee and Council at meetings in London of 19-20 July, and the representatives of 16 governments, observers from 5, one United Nations and one FAO observer decided to forward the draft to member governments and to call for specific and detailed observations on the numerous policy issues raised by the draft. It was further decided to convene another meeting of the Council for the purpose of beginning negotiations; it was thought that governments should send delegations for Council sessions which would last six to eight weeks in November and December 1950. If substantial agreement can be reached at this negotiating conference it was decided the next step would be to ask the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene a full commodity conference early in 1951.

The FAO observer, was called upon to participate in all the meetings of the Council, the Statistical Committee, the Special Policy Committee and the Working Party. There were a great number of issues, which effect the basic economic interests of many countries, yet to be resolved. Three or four of these issues are of a fundamental nature and the degree of compromise that can be attained will depend probably on the degree of urgency for an agreement. The political-military developments of the last six weeks have altered completely the current international su-

gar picture; whether these developments will affect also the outlook for 1951 and 1952 remains to be seen.

* * *

On 25 May the delegates of the European professional organizations and observers from the Swedish and Norwegian Monopolies and the International Wine Office met in Paris so as to take the necessary steps with a view to setting up an **International Federation for the wines, spirits, brandies and liqueurs industries and wholesale trade**. An interim committee was appointed by the meeting to draft the statutes and convene the constitutive assembly.



PUBLICATIONS

Agricultural extension services in European countries. — This report of the European Economic Co-operation Organization aims at establishing methods which would permit strengthening agricultural extension services and thus reducing the delay between a discovery in agricultural research and its practical application. The report is not based on official statements but on the direct observations of a group of European and American experts who studied the working of agricultural extension services in fourteen countries of western and south Europe. Nor is it the result of abstract concepts. On the contrary it expounds the joint views of a group of agricultural advisers, most of whom have passed the greater part of their life among farmers. FAO was represented on this group of experts by Mr B.L. Hummel, an extension service specialist.

The first part gives the general conclusions of the experts on the basic principles of an effective extension service. The second part consists of an account of the working of the extension services in each of the countries visited and contains suggestions as to how they could be still further improved.

* * *

The cultivation of hybrid maize in European countries. — This report, published by the OEEC, was drawn up by a group of American experts and deals with the expansion of hybrid maize cultivation in eleven of the OEEC member countries.

In recent years hybrid maize growing has increased considerably in Europe. The early trials made first by UNRRA and afterwards by FAO with adapted American hybrids showed that some of the hybrids could be utilized to advantage in Europe.

The possibilities of extending the area cultivated are rather reduced in Europe; consequently, raising the yield per hectare is the only practical means of

increasing production. It is also essential to develop new types as well as new varieties and seed-maize.

The report contains several conclusions and general recommendations for the development of hybrid maize cultivation in Europe. In the reports by country an account is given of the hybrid maize crop programs and on the results obtained in each country.

* * *

The report entitled **Agricultural extension methods for pasture improvement** and published by the OEEC gives a review of the proceedings of a meeting held recently in Paris on agricultural extension methods for pasture improvement. This meeting, organized by the French Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with the OEEC, was convened to call attention to the importance of pasture to permit having a discussion and exchange of experience on the methods adopted in the member countries for pasture improvement. In addition to the question of agricultural extension services, some special problems concerning pasture were examined, in particular, lucern and its uses, ensilage and the different types of silos, manuring of pasturages and requirements with respect to seed production.

N. B. — The above reports are sold by the sales agents for OEEC publications.

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The **Report on the European Centre of Applied Agricultural and Demographic Statistics**, held in Paris, from 26 September to 20 December 1949, by FAO, the French Government, Statistical Office of UN, and UNESCO (see also N° 3/1949 p. 187 and N° 1/1950, p. 51 of this Bulletin), has now been published by the Statistical Office of UN at Lake Success. This 28-page publication (Series M, N° 5) gives information on the objects of the centre, its organization, work and results. Some of the papers delivered at the centre have been published in French, by courtesy of the French Government, under the following titles: *Organisation Administrative des Statistiques [Agricoles]* — M. le Professeur Barbéri; *Questions Economiques* — MM. Vauthier et Jansen; *Recensements de la Population* — M. E.F. Drion; *Statistiques Agricoles Courantes* — MM. Tolley et Iversen; *Sondages en Agriculture* — MM. Levy Bruhl, Thionet, H. Hansen, le Dr F. Yates; *Recensements de l'Agriculture* — M. C. de Lauwe; *Recensements de l'Agriculture et autres questions de Statistique agricole* — M. J. H. Kirk; *Eléments de Statistique Mathématique* — M. le Prof. Darmais; *Statistique Appliquée à l'Economie* — M. Chartier.

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The Woodrow Wilson Foundation has transferred to the United Nations its **Woodrow Wilson Memorial Library** of some 16,500 volumes, including what is

considered the most complete and usable collection of League of Nations documents in the world. Upon completion of the UN Headquarters, this Library will occupy one floor in the Manhattan Building at 405 East 42nd Street which is part of the UN area. Mr Trygve Lie, Secretary General of UN, in accepting the gift, said that it was a fitting tribute to the memory of a great American and citizen of the world, and to the ideals for which he fought.

CONFERENCES CONGRESSES - MEETINGS

1 9 5 0

OCTOBER

1 to December 22

Lahore, Asian Training Center on Economic Appraisal of Development Projects

2 to 10

Copenhagen, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

9

Geneva, IRO General Council.

9 to 10

Monte Carlo, Consultative Committee of the Red Cross Youth

9 to 18

Bangkok, Asia and Pacific Forestry and Forest Products Commission

9 to 20

Turrialba (Costa Rica), Latin American Meeting on Livestock Production

12 to 14

Ghent (Belgium), Zootechnic Seminars

16 to 20

New York, International Silk Congress

17

Lake Success, UN Administrative Committee on Coordination

19

Monte Carlo, Permanent Committee, International Red Cross Conference

20

Noumea, (New Caledonia), South Pacific Commission-6th Session

25 to November 1

Washington, FAO Council - 10th Session

30

Simla (India), UN ECAFE Technical Conference on Flood Control

October

Tunis, International Dates Congress

October

London, International Wool Study Group - 4th Session

NOVEMBER

3 to 11

Washington, FAO Conference - Special Session

6

Washington, Joint WHO-FAO Panel on Brucellosis (to be held in conjunction with the 3rd Inter-American Congress on Brucellosis)

13 to 14

Washington, FAO Council. 11th Session

15 to 25

Brussels, ILO Governing Body and its Committees. 113th Session

Seville and *Madrid*, International Olive Growers' Congress

20 to 24

Paris, International Analysis and Trials Meeting

28 to 30

Alfort (France), Scientific Meeting on Milk Production

28 to December 9

Lyons, ILO Textiles Committee - 3rd Session

November

San José (Costa Rica), Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama - 1st Council (tentative)

Torquay, Interim Coordinating Committee for International Commodity Arrangements

DECEMBER

1

Montevideo, Latin American Meeting on Food and Agricultural Programs and Outlook (to be held in conjunction with 4th Inter-American Conference on Agriculture)

4 to 16

Indonesia, ILO Committee on Work in Plantations - 1st Session

17 to 19

Indonesia, ILO Asian Advisory Committee

26

Karachi, ILO Asian Technical Conference on Cooperation

December

Santiago, Latin American Forestry and Forest Products Commission

December (tentative)

Washington, Technical Meeting on Physiological Requirements of Nutrients

Late 1950

(undetermined), International Commission of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries - 1st Meeting

(Undetermined)

Rome, Meeting for the Establishment of Regional Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean.

FAIRS - EXHIBITIONS

1950

SEPTEMBER

30 to October 15

Helsinki, International Fair

Paris, XVth International Nautical Show

Turin, International Sample Fair, with the western countries

September-October

Zagreb, International Fair

OCTOBER

2 to 22

Brussels, Food, Household Crafts and Packing Show

3 to 17

France, 1950 Wool Fortnight (organized by the International Wool Secretary)

5 to 15

Paris, Packing and Bottling Show

5 to 25

Paris, Leather Week

7 to 22

Montpellier (France), International Wine Show

11 to 21

Leicester (England), International Textile Machinery and Equipment Exhibition

14 to 29

Oran (Algeria), Sample Fair

October

Teheran, International Agricultural Fair

NOVEMBER

27 to December 4

Bologna (Italy), International Winter Fruit and Vegetable Fair.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

SUMMARY : I. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS : FAO (Italy). II. ALIMENTATION : (a) Foodstuffs (Denmark, Germany, Switzerland) ; (b) Milk and dairy products (Egypt, Germany, Sweden) ; (c) Maize meal (France) ; (d) Bacon and margarine (Finland, Norway) ; (e) Non-alcoholic beverages (France). - III. AGRICULTURE : (a) Agrarian reform (Italy) ; (b) Crop improvement (Morocco) ; (c) Soil conservation (Madagascar) ; (d) Cereals (Algeria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal) ; (e) Seeds (Finland, France, Sweden) ; (f) Potatoes (Switzerland) ; (g) Oilseeds (France, Switzerland) ; (h) Testing of production requisites (France) ; (i) Farm contracts (Italy) ; (j) Agricultural credit (Denmark, Finland, Italy) ; (k) Phytosanitary control (Belgium, Egypt, France, Morocco, Norway, Sweden) ; (l) Stockbreeding (Algeria, France, Morocco) ; (m) Livestock sanitary regulations (Germany, Luxembourg). - IV. ECONOMICS AND MARKETS : (a) Trade agreements (Egypt, Switzerland) ; (b) Frontier trade (Germany) ; (c) Exportation and importation (Algeria, Denmark, France, Switzerland) ; (d) Customs duties (Belgium, Egypt, France, Switzerland) ; (e) Egg market (Germany) ; (f) Conditioning, quality control and standardization (Algeria, Denmark, France, Switzerland) ; (g) Fats and oils (Norway) ; (h) Teas and tea mixtures (France) ; (i) Sugar (Germany) ; (j) Wines (Egypt, Switzerland) ; (k) Coffee stocks (Sweden, Switzerland) ; (l) Price fixing and control : (i) *cattle and beef* (France) ; (ii) *coffee* (Algeria, Morocco) ; (iii) *milk and butter* (Germany) ; (iv) *eggs* (Switzerland) ; (v) *grapes* (Switzerland) ; (vi) *sugar* (Germany). - V. STATISTICS : (Germany, Sweden). - VI. FORESTRY : (Belgium ; France, Italy, Luxembourg). - VII. FISHERIES : (Algeria, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Sweden). - VIII. RURAL WELFARE : (a) Domestic re-equipment aid (Belgium) ; (b) Annual holidays with pay (Luxembourg) ; (c) Agricultural mutual insurance (France) ; (d) Cheesemakers (Switzerland).

I. - SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS : FAO

ITALY

■ Law N° 713 of 10 August 1950 (*G.U.*, N° 210, 13 September 1950, p. 2644), relates to the appropriation of Building A of the block of buildings located in Viale Aventino, Rome for the offices of the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). An expenditure of 1,600,000 lire is authorized to complete construction work on the building in question. Lastly, the Law lays down that the delivery to FAO of Buildings B and A and the regulation of the dealings arising from the assignation of the buildings will form the subject of special agreements with the State Property Department. The Law exempts the said agreements from stamp tax and registration and mortgage duties.

II. - ALIMENTATION

(a) Foodstuffs

DENMARK

■ Law N° 174 of 28 April 1950 (*L.T.A.*, N° 22, 9 May 1950, p. 344) bears provisions relative to foodstuffs. Firstly general provisions refer to the manufacture, storage and transport of foodstuffs.

— Legislation Chronicle edited by the Legislation Service of FAO. For previous issues see also Nos 1, 2, 1947; 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, 1948; 2, 3 and 4, 1949; 1 and 2, 1950 of the European Bulletin of FAO.

Secondly, it is laid down that the term foodstuffs is understood to mean all products intended for human nutrition, even when it is merely a substance serving for the preservation of foodstuffs.

The prescriptions of the Law are applicable indiscriminately to all foodstuffs notwithstanding the dispositions in force of the special laws relative to meat and its by-products, butter, cheese, etc. An exception, however, is admitted in the case of bread and bakery goods.

It is prohibited to offer for sale or to sell foodstuffs which it is thought might cause disease or serve as a vector of disease or cause poisoning. No food product can be sold or offered for sale under circumstances likely to mislead the buyer as to the origin, quality, composition or mode of preparation of the products employed in its manufacture, etc. Special provisions prescribe the compulsory declaration to be submitted to the Health Commission by the manufacturers of food products intended for sale in specific localities. The way in which the premises where foodstuffs are sold are to be fitted up and arranged is also prescribed. Special prescriptions are also laid down with respect to each food product, particularly from the standpoint of hygiene, food value and quality.

GERMANY

■ An Order of 21 March 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 6, 15 May 1950, p. 58) defines the documents to be furnished to justify all applications for agricultural products indispensable for supplies. It enumerates, with the

approval of the Federal Council, the agricultural products for which such documents are still required. The enumeration comprises four groups: (1) cereals and brewer's malt; (2) domestic and imported vegetable and animal fats; (3) beet and cane sugar products; (4) cacao and its products.

SWITZERLAND

■ An Order of the Excise-office dated 13 July 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 26, 13 July 1950, p. 669) carries directions relative to the sale, during the autumn of 1950, of fresh fruit to people in need, at reduced prices. Two sales are organized, one of autumn apples, the other of late apples. The fruit is placed at the disposal of the cantons and communes, at a price fixed immediately before delivery. The cantons and communes can reduce still further the selling price on assuming the difference entailed by this reduction.

An Order of the Federal Council dated 16 August 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 31, 17 August 1950, p. 792) amends the Ordinance of 1936 which regulates the trade in foodstuffs and various staple commodities. Amendments also concern the cleaning and sterilization before filling of bottles and other containers used for milk; the designation of 'pasteurized' milk; cream; fruit juices; mineral water; herb teas; beer, etc.

(b) Milk and dairy products

EGYPT

■ Law N° 132 of 28 August 1950 (*Suppl. to J.O.E.*, N° 86, 31 August 1950, p. 1) regulates the production and sale of milk and dairy products. The milk authorized for sale is that of buffalos, cows, goats or ewes. It is prohibited to put into circulation milk which is a mixture of different milks. It is also prohibited to sell, display or hold for sale, milk unless it is clean, fresh, possessing all its natural properties, free from any adulteration, dirt or colouring matter, not having been heated artificially or skimmed. The Minister for Public Health will decide by Order the specifications and standards for milk and milk products. Other provisions refer to dairy cattle, filtering, refrigeration, transport, distribution and sale of milk, etc.

GERMANY

■ An Order of 28 January 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 2, 25 February 1950, p. 21) carries provisions relative to the fat content of butter, prohibiting the offer for sale or sale of butter which contains less than 80 per cent. by weight of butterfat or which, when not salted, contains over 18 per cent. by weight of water, or when salted, over 18 per

cent. by weight of water and common salt. When butter contains over 0.1 per cent. by weight of salt, it is considered to be salted butter.

An Order of 28 February 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 4, 12 April 1950, p. 35) enacts measures on the butterfat content of milk intended for consumption in the fresh fluid state. The Länder food and agriculture authorities fix the butterfat content of fluid milk at a minimum of 2.8 per cent. by weight. The butterfat content of fluid milk can only be adjusted by the dairies specified in the Order, and only by means of partial skimming or by admixture of skimmed milk.

An Order dated 18 March 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 4, 12 April 1950, p. 35) contains measures relative to the management and regulation of the milk and milk products market, by delimiting the sectors for milk production and milk-collecting by the dairies, distribution, obligation to report contraveners, powers of the Länder and penalties.

SWEDEN

■ Royal Decree N° 177 of 19 May 1950 (*S.F.*, N° 174-178, 26 May 1950, p. 295) contains amendments to Decree dated 21 July 1937 relative to milk, cream and dairy products intended for human consumption. By virtue of these amendments milk powder, condensed milk, cream and cheeses intended for direct consumption cannot be sold if products whose sale is prohibited have been used for their preparation.

(c) Maize meal

FRANCE

■ An Order of 17 June 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 151, 26 and 27 June 1950, p. 6801) annuls all previous provisions fixing the extraction rate and standards for the milled products and by-products of maize.

(d) Bacon and margarine

FINLAND

■ Resolution N° 78 dated 9 February 1950 (*F.F.*, N° 67-81, 17 February 1950, p. 221) regulates the trade in bacon and the raw material used for the preparation of margarine. The provisions are based on the Law of 6 May 1941 regulating the economic system of the country in time of depression and consider the requisition, importation of and trade in these raw materials and bacon. The aforesaid commodities are subject to requisition from the time of importation; the importers concerned are required to present to the Board of Trade a statement indicating the type of commodity and the quantity imported. Margarine factories will only receive the raw materials in question on obtaining special permits or by complying with the procedure prescribed by law.

NORWAY

■ An Order of the Ministry of Agriculture dated 4 March 1950 (*N.L.*, N° 13, 17 March 1950, p. 324) contains measures relative to the colouring of emulsified fats. Colouring should be effected by means of the colouring substance 'Orange special 1.75 R' and the intensity of the colour must 43 per cent. less than white. It is prohibited to sell new products before the colouring has been submitted to the Institute of Agricultural Chemistry for approval.

An Order of the Ministry of Agriculture dated 25 April 1950 (*N.L.*, N° 19, 5 May 1950, p. 402) contains provisions relative to the vitaminization of margarine. In conformity with these provisions margarine manufactures will only be able to purchase vitamin preparations from the producers and importers authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture. To obtain the relative authorization the producers concerned must be provided with a certificate delivered by the Health Office testifying that production has been effected in accordance with all sanitary regulations; that the laboratories are equipped with the necessary apparatus for checking the content in vitamin A, etc.; that the copy of the documents referring to the deliveries effected has been duly submitted every month to the Margarine Inspection Office.

It is also laid down that the products in question should contain 2,000 International Units of vitamin A and 250 I.U. of vitamin D. Other restrictions give full details on the containers to be employed, labelling, marking, etc. The competent Ministry may also establish subsequent provisions relative to the relation between the weight of the vitamin product and its vitamin strength.

(e) Non-alcoholic beverages

FRANCE

■ Law N° 50-1013 of 22 August 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 199, 23 August 1950, p. 9015) contains regulations governing the use of certain products of vegetable origin in the preparation of non-alcoholic beverages, with a view to protecting the public health. Public administrative regulations taken by the Minister for public health, after consultation with the Board of Public Health of France and the National Academy of Medicine, will determine the terms of application of the law and will establish the list of plants, parts of plants, vegetable extracts or any other product of vegetable origin subject to the regulations, stipulations for their use and their maximum content in active principles. These texts cannot in any way derogate from the provisions laid down by application of Art. 11 of the Law dated 1 August 1905 on the suppression of fraud in the sale of merchandise and the adulteration of foodstuffs and agricultural products. The Law is applicable in Algeria and in the Overseas Departments.

III. - AGRICULTURE

(a) Agrarian reform

ITALY

■ Law N° 230 of 12 May 1950 (*G.U.*, N° 115, 20 May 1950, p. 1511) contains provisions relative to the settlement of the Sila table-land and the adjacent Ionian area. The organization for the development of the Sila ('Opera per la valorizzazione della Sila'), established by Law N° 1629 of 31 December 1947 (see this *Bulletin*, 1948, N° 6, pp. 514-515) is charged with the redistribution and the modification of expropriated landed property in view of the concession in ownership to agricultural workers who are neither proprietors nor long lease tenants. The Law regulates in detail the special procedure relating to the expropriation of land and the indemnities to be accorded to the proprietors, as well as the assignment of the land to the peasants by bill of sale, with payment spread over thirty annual instalments and with condition of avoidance until payment in full. The organization for the development of the Sila table-land is required to organize technical and economic assistance for the grantees and the latter are required, for twenty years, to belong to the co-operative associations or consortia established by the organization for the purpose of ensuring more effectively technical, economic and financial aid to the new smallholdings.

(b) Crop improvement

MOROCCO

■ A Dahir of 14 March 1950 (*B.O.*, N° 1959, 12 May 1950, p. 536) institutes an incentive bonus to promote the spread of improved cultivation methods. This bonus, at the request of the interested party, is allotted to the crops, not tree crops, subject to the tertib, depending on the yield of the crops. The amount of the bonus will be equivalent to 30 per cent. of the amount of the tertib on the crops in question. Wheat crops, however, will be allocated an amount equal to the entire tertib.

An Order of 5 May 1950 (*Ibid.*, p. 537) fixes the conditions governing the granting of the incentive bonus for 'improved crops'. By the terms of this Order will be considered as 'improved crops' for the application of Dahir dated 14 March 1950, the crops, excluding tree crops, which will have been grown on grubbed land cleared of stones, tilled with at least a mould-board plough, and harrowed with a metal harrow after sowing. The following crops do not need to be harrowed: broad beans, chick peas, green peas, haricot beans, lentils, maize. These crops, however, to be eligible for the bonus, must be grown in rows at least 40 centimetres apart. It is to be noted that the different farming implements required for cultivation operations must be the personal property of the operator.

(c) Soil conservation

MADAGASCAR

■ Circular N° 949-S.E. of 4 April 1950 (*J.O.M.*, N° 3386, 8 April 1950, p. 618) deals closely with the important problem of soil conservation.

After having recalled that the problem of soil conservation and forest protection in tropical countries has become of international concern and that it is impossible to ignore the recommendations and resolutions passed by the Conference held in Goma (Kiva, Belgian Congo) from 8 to 16 November 1948, the Circular suggests simple solutions, which have proved successful elsewhere, to remedy the very threatening situation in Madagascar.

The texts in force are inapplicable in practice. The grasslands throughout the island are burnt and in most cases no care is taken to keep the fire within limits. The Circular asserts that this system must definitely cease. The Circular deals with the changes required in the methods used by the forest villages, management of tillable land, long term protection of forests and soils, natural uses of the land, forest protection, re-afforestation, etc.

(d) Cereals

ALGERIA

■ An Order of 9 June 1950 (*J.O.A.*, Part 1, N° 47, 13 June 1950, p. 903) contains provisions relative to the amount of partial payment on soft and hard wheats of the 1950 crop to be paid to the warehouses. These payments are fixed at 2,200 francs per quintal for soft wheat and 2,500 fr. for hard wheat of genuine and marketable grade whatever the specific weight, delivered to the warehouse at the expense of the seller.

Another Order of the same date (*Ibid.*, p. 904) fixes at 1,400 francs for barley and 1,200 fr. for oats the partial payment per quintal to be paid to producers for their deliveries of the 1950 crop. These payments apply to grain delivered at the expense of the seller to the warehouse, one hectolitre of barley being calculated at 58.5 to 59.499 kg., and one hectolitre of oats at 48.5 to 49.999 kg.

The Order contains provisions relative to the allowances and rebates to be applied.

An Order of 19 July 1950 (*J.O.A.*, Part 1, N° 58, 21 July 1950, p. 1046) carries the provisions regarding the organization of the 1950-51 grain season.

Every grain producer is required to declare his crop, whatever the quantity, before 1 November 1950. The crop statements should indicate in particular: the quantities of grain retained for the needs of the farm (human consumption, seed, livestock feed), the quantity delivered for farm rent, *métayage*, etc., stock for sale and the warehouse to which the producer desires to deliver this stock.

Detailed provisions regulate the destination of the crop, marketing, stocking and transport of grain.

DENMARK

■ Law N° 240 dated 27 May 1950 (*L.T.A.*, N° 30, 1 June 1950, p. 472) contains provisions relative to the 1950 wheat crop. The Law prescribes that the wheat must be intended exclusively for human consumption, its use as livestock feed being prohibited. The Minister of Agriculture may, however in special cases, make exceptions. He is also authorized to prescribe the compulsory delivery of the 1950 wheat crop, save the grain reserved for sowing in the 1950-51 season or the grain to be sold to third parties for seed. Wheat waste unusable for human consumption is also exempt from compulsory delivery.

Producers must deliver the wheat after threshing and cleaning to authorized grain merchants or millers.

Lastly the Law establishes the prices for wheat and the rebates to be made if the wheat delivered is not up to standard.

Order N° 300 of 11 July 1950 (*L.T.A.*, N° 37, 18 July 1950, p. 798) contains exceptions to the provisions of 27 May 1950 relative to the delivery of wheat of the 1950-51 crop. The following are exempt from compulsory delivery: wheats containing over 3 per cent. other grain; bran and husks; flour and bread waste and wheat which has not been approved by the State Office for grain inspection.

FRANCE

■ An Order dated 26 June 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 156, 2 July 1950, p. 7085) carries provisions relative to the allocation of funds intended for improvement in the cultivation of hard wheats. Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco can benefit from the allocation of the funds reserved for improving the cultivation of hard wheat, provided that measures are taken in the three countries to levy on the price of the products processed by the local edible paste industry, the same deduction as that retained in metropolitan France. Allocation is made taking due account of: (1) the improvement programs for hard wheat cultivation; (2) the area sown to hard wheat; (3) results obtained in regard to the improvement of hard wheat production in the preceding season; (4) exports of hard wheat or its derivatives to metropolitan France (5) the sum of the deduction effected in each territory where prescribed.

The provisions of the Order apply solely to the funds collected during the 1948-49 season.

Law N° 50-912 of 8 August 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 188, 9 August 1950, p. 8311) lays down that the Decree fixing the price of wheat be published in the *Journal Officiel* before 1 August of each year.

GERMANY

■ Order PR N° 8/50 of 17 March 1950 (*MBL*, N° 5, 29 April 1950, p. 46) amends Order PR N° 61/49 relative to the prices of selected wheat seed of the 1949

crop and fixes the price of summer barley at DM 43.50.

Order PR N° 22/50 of 28 April 1950 (*MBL*, N° 7, 31 May 1950, p. 70) amends the Order relative to enforcement of Order PR N° 50/49 concerning the prices of bread wheat and bakery goods.

ITALY

■ Law N° 454 dated 4 July 1950 (*G.U.*, N° 159, 14 July 1950, p. 2034) prescribes the stocking, by provincial quota, of home-grown wheat of the 1949-50 crop, up to a maximum of 16 million quintals for the total number of provinces of the country.

With a view to the application of the aforesaid Law, a Ministerial Decree of 18 July 1950 (*G.U.*, N° 164, 20 July 1950, p. 2092) contains regulations for delivery to public warehouses.

The wheat is paid immediately on delivery according to the price schedule approved by the Interministerial Price Board.

LUXEMBOURG

■ An Order dated 25 August 1950 (*M.L.*, N° 46, 31 August 1950, p. 1149) contains provisions relative to the compulsory milling of home-grown bread grains of the 1950 crop. By this Order domestic wheat, rye and maslin are considered to be bread grains. The producers are allowed to deliver their crop for compulsory milling at the rate of 900 kg. per hectare of rye and maslin, on the basis of the area declared at the time of the official census of agricultural areas on 15 May 1950. Beginning 1 September 1950 the mills must employ in the manufacture of flour to be used in making bread, a mixture of wheat and rye, and in that of white flour, wheat only. The mixture percentage and the extraction rate will be fixed by the Minister of Agriculture and Economic Affairs.

Another Order of the same date (*Ibid.*, p. 1151) regulates the payment of subsidies equivalent to the difference between production prices and trade prices established by the Prices Office, to be paid to the producers of domestic bread grains of the 1950 crop. The subsidies are fixed at the rate of 110 francs per quintal of wheat and 245 fr. per quintal of rye and maslin.

PORTUGAL

■ Decree Law N° 37:924 of 1 August 1950 (*D.d.G.*, 1st Series, N° 152, 1 August 1950, p. 523) maintains in force for the 1950-51 grain season the provisions of Decree Law N° 37:503 of 2 August 1949. Consequently the provisions relative to the price of wheat, wheaten flour and bread, and the measures concerning the granting of subsidies for the use of fertilizers to promote production, remain operative.

(e) Seeds

FINLAND

■ Law N° 270 of 9 June 1950 (*F.F.*, N° 276-283, 12 June 1950, p. 517) contains measures with a view to promoting the production of domestic seed-grain during the years 1950-1954.

In order to stabilize prices and encourage the production of domestic seed-grain the State will give producers its guarantee as to prices and sale. The Grain Supply Office assures, on the basis of the cultivation and delivery agreements stipulated, the purchase of seed-grain of certain species.

The Cabinet, each year before 1 October, decides the prices which will be paid by the aforesaid Office, taking due account of the required quality standards. These standards are established annually by the Ministry of Agriculture.

FRANCE

■ An Order dated 20 May 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 131, 3 June 1950, p. 5994) adds a section 'Semences de luzerne' (seed lucern) to the catalogue of species and varieties of cultivated plants, established by Decree of 16 November 1932. This section comprises the following varietal types: 'Luzerne flamande. Population de pays; Luzerne flamande, Chartrain-villiers. — F. Desprez; Luzerne flamande Flandria. J. Carnot; Luzerne flamande Socheville. — Rousset; Luzerne flamande W. 268. — F. Desprez. — Luzerne de Marais. — Population du pays; Luzerne d'Ormelong. — Genty; Luzerne du Poitou. — Population du pays; Luzerne de Provence. — Population du pays; Luzerne du Puits. — Tourneur'.

It is prohibited to use a denomination other than that under which the seed lucern is registered in the catalogue of species and varieties. Consequently, new varietal types whether imported or not, can only be sold as seed lucern after registration in the aforesaid catalogue.

An Order of 7 June 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 153, 29 June 1950, p. 6929) contains measures relative to the testing of the quality of exported forage seed. The export of forage seed, in particular vetch and lupins, clover, lucern, black medic, rye-grass, sainfoin, grasses and other forage seed is subordinate to presentation at the outgoing custom-house of a sampling certificate issued by the National Interprofessional Association for the production and utilization of seeds and seedlings: This certificate may be accompanied by an international analysis report delivered by the Central Seed-testing Station in Paris. The certificate is drawn up in conformity with the specimen appended to the Order.

An Order dated 22 June 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 170, 19 July 1950, p. 7764) sets up an official Seed-testing Commission for forage plants. The duties of this Commission ('C.O.C. fourragères') are to (1) fix the conditions governing acceptance for testing and

to give a decision on applications for testing; (2) establish the technical regulation of testing; (3) delimit the breeding zones for the different types of forage plants; (4) give testers the technical instructions which they must follow; (5) check if these instructions have been carried out, accept or refuse seeds for testing on the proposal of the testers, and fix the technical conditions for delivery, conditioning and preservation of seed. The terms and details of application will be fixed by a technical regulation which will be drawn up by the Commission, after consultation with the Standing Technical Committee for the selection of cultivated plants.

Another Order of the same date (*Ibid.*, p. 7764) provides for the setting up of an official Seed-testing Commission for oil-yielding plants. The duties of this Commission ('C.O.C. oléagineux') are the same as those indicated above for the 'C.O.C. fourragères'.

SWEDEN

■ Royal Decree N° 201 of 26 May 1950 (*S.F.*, N° 200-203, 6 June 1950, p. 346) amends Order N° 444 of 15 November 1928 relative to supervision of the application of the Law dated 14 June 1928 concerning trade in seed. By virtue of these amendments it is compulsory to take samples of the products sold and the seller must furnish precise particulars on the seed sold, for the purpose of effecting stricter control.

(f) Potatoes

SWITZERLAND

■ In order to ensure the utilization of the domestic potato crop without distillation, the Federal Council has decreed an Order dated 11 July 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 26, 13 July 1950, p. 666) authorizing the Excise-office for spirituous liquors to take measures relative to the purchase, storage, transport and use of potatoes and their products. In particular the Excise-office is authorized to make grants for the transport of potatoes to the interior, to encourage the sale of table potatoes, and to regulate the use of potatoes for forage and industrial purposes.

The Order contains provisions relative to delivery to the consumption centres, mutual aid measures to facilitate the utilization of eventual surpluses locally, the greatest possible use of potatoes for forage, etc.

The Federal Council is required to fix the prices of table and forage potatoes immediately before harvesting.

By virtue of the provisions of the preceding Order the Federal Council has established by Order of 29 August 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 33, 31 August 1950, p. 882) the prices at production per 100 kg. of potatoes, not bagged, free alongside nearest station, at the following rate: for table potatoes, from 17 to 20

francs, according to variety and grade; and for forage potatoes, from 10 to 12 francs, according to whether they are sorted or not and to grade.

(g) Oilseeds

FRANCE

■ An Order dated 23 June 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 154, 30 June 1950, p. 6965) contains provisions relative to the price and marketing of domestic oilseeds of the 1950 crop. These seeds will be delivered by the growers to the warehouses approved by the Ministry of Agriculture so as to profit by the guarantees provided for by Decree dated 26 July 1947 relative to the production of oil-yielding plants in France. The fixed maximum prices of oilseeds at production are determined according to the terms of the same Decree by applying the converting factors established by Order of 27 August 1949.

An Order of the same date (*Ibid.*, p. 6965) fixes the converting factors for determining the prices of domestic oilseeds of the 1951 crop. The fixed maximum price of colseed (1951 crop) will be determined by applying a factor of 2.1 to the net price of wheat, as will be homologated by the decree fixing the price of wheat of the 1951 crop, while the fixed maximum prices of the other oilseeds of the 1951 crop will be determined according to the oil content of these seeds compared with that of colseed.

SWITZERLAND

■ With a view to assuring the supply of the country in essential commodities, an Order of the Federal Council dated 12 July 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 27, 20 July 1950, p. 675) contains measures for promoting the cultivation of colza in 1950/51 and the utilization of the crop.

The Confederation guarantees taking the colza crop of 2,500 ha, in 1951 provided that the growers take, in proportion to the quantities they delivered, the factory waste (oilcakes and extraction refuse). The price at production centre will be fixed by the Federal Council, before harvesting, taking into account production costs, yield and possibility of utilization. In addition, purchase at production centre, processing by the oil-mills, as well as the utilization of colza oil and waste products, will be regulated by the Department of Public Economy.

(h) Testing of production requisites

FRANCE

■ An Order of 26 April 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 121, 21 May 1950, p. 5603) carries application of Decree N° 50-153 of 1 February 1950 relative to the testing of production requisites. In pursuance of these provisions the following are subject to State testing:

production requisites of foreign origin for which an import licence, subject to the technical visa of the Mechanical and Electric Industries Department, is needed; production requisites of French manufacture for which the manufacturer asks personal aid from the State, in the form of a loan from the national modernization and equipment Fund, or any other financial assistance; and lastly, the requisites for the utilization or installation of which, public or private organizations have the benefit of financial assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture.

(i) Farm contracts

ITALY

■ Law N° 392 of 3 June 1950 (*G.U.*, N° 149, 3 July 1950, p. 1932) amends, in regard to legal action on litigation, the Law N° 353 dated 23 June 1949 extending farming leases, métayage, share-tenancy and share-cropping contracts.

Law N° 505 dated 15 July 1950 (*G.U.*, N° 169, 26 July 1950, p. 2154) provides for further extension, up to the crop year 1950-51, of the provisions of Law N° 353 of 23 June 1949 and other supplementary provisions.

(j) Agricultural credit

DENMARK

■ Law N° 238 of 27 May 1950 (*L.T.A.*, N° 30, 1 June 1950, p. 478) contains provisions relative to the granting of loans for the modernization and rationalizing of economic activity in agriculture, horticulture and fruit-growing. The loans considered by the Law are drawn from the monies constituted by the counter fund value of the credits donated for European reconstruction work. Loans are granted for the modernization of rural buildings, the rationalization of horticultural enterprises, the construction of silos, construction or enlargement of technical plants for the rational storage of fruit and potatoes.

FINLAND

■ Law N° 236 of 12 May 1950 (*F.F.*, N° 236-240, 17 May 1950, p. 469) contains provisions relative to the financing of the construction of warehouses for stocking wheat. The Law purposes to improve and facilitate the storage of grain and to this end authorizes the granting of loans for the construction of silos close to mills and grain stocking enterprises.

The loans to be granted total 400 million marks. The loans are given in preference to mills provided with adequate premises or else to enterprises situated in localities where is an overproduction of cereals. The said loans are also granted for the construction

of warehouses supplied with driers and silos provided, however, that at least half of this equipment is placed at the disposal of the Supplies Office. Other provisions concern the amount of the loans, time allowed for amortization, etc.

ITALY

■ A Presidential Decree of 22 June 1950 (*G.U.*, N° 155, 10 July 1950, p. 1997) contains the terms and conditions relative to the return of loans granted to agricultural credit institutions by virtue of Law N° 906 dated 29 October 1949. Loans will be repayable to the Treasury in regular posterior annual instalments, comprising the capital and 5 per cent. interest, beginning 1 January 1951. For the preceding period, that is, from the actual granting of the loan up to 31 December 1950, each beneficiary institution will only pay the interest at the rate of 5 per cent.

(k) Phytosanitary control

BELGIUM

■ A Circular of the Ministry of Agriculture dated 17 June 1950 (*M.B.*, N° 168, 17 June 1950, p. 4786) reminds all burgomasters that the control of the Colorado beetle this season will be undertaken on an international plan, with the collaboration of the International Plant Protection Committee, with whose action the Belgian Government is associated. The Minister of Agriculture therefore invites the burgomasters to give the officers of the Colorado beetle control service every assistance the said officers may request of them in carrying out their operations. He calls attention to the provisions of the Regent's Decree dated 6 May 1946 establishing the measures for preventing the spread of the Colorado beetle, and to the provisions of the Regent's Decree of 1 October 1949 on the measures to be taken officially for the control of plant diseases and pests. In effect, Article 1 of the Order dated 6 May 1946 obliges every proprietor, lessee, tenant or occupier, in whatever capacity, to see immediately to the destruction of the Colorado beetle on the land he occupies. Article 2 requires the burgomaster to see that this measure is carried out effectively. If the persons concerned do not adopt effective means of destruction the burgomaster of the commune will take official steps for the destruction of the Colorado beetle by virtue of the Order of 1 October 1949.

EGYPT

■ Law N° 52 of 18 May 1950 (*J.O.E.*, N° 84, 26 August 1950, p. 11) bears amendments to Law N° 45 of 1946 decreeing the measures to be taken for the control of plant diseases and pests.

FRANCE

■ Order of 10 May 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 117, 17 May 1950, p. 5439) adds to List A — appended to the Order dated 1 August 1946 relative to the control of crop pests and diseases — under the heading 'Fungi, bacteria and viruses' virus diseases of *Aurantiaaceae*.

Order dated 1 June 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 134, 7 June 1950, p. 6102) provides for the establishment of the Ministry of Agriculture of an advisory plant protection Committee, commissioned to study the problems regarding the pests of crops and plant products. This Committee draws up the list of crop diseases and pests against which control measures are organized under the conditions laid down by the Minister of Agriculture; the Committee may also specify the methods to be employed in carrying out control operations. It may also advise on the measures to be taken in regard to the importation of plants or parts of plants, in order to prevent the introduction of additional parasites into France.

MOROCCO

■ Order of 20 June 1950 (*B.O.*, N° 1966, 30 June 1950, p. 883) contains measures relative to the sanitary regulations concerning the importation of plants or plant products. The importation or transit of plants or parts of plants or the articles listed in Article 5 of the Dahir dated 20 September 1927, can only be effected, in the case of compulsory sanitary inspection, through the ports of Casablanca or Port Lyautey or the frontier station of Ouida. The result of the sanitary inspection is recorded in an official report.

Consignments of seedlings, layers, cuttings, etc. must be accompanied by a copy of the invoice specifying the botanical species and varieties, name and address of the consignor, name and address of the consignee, etc. In addition a certificate of sanitary inspection is required in the case of potatoes, tomatoes or egg-plants. Consignments of these commodities must not contain any parasite, especially the Colorado beetle, eelworm disease, wart disease, nor be attacked by the following virus diseases: spindle tuber, curly top, witches' broom, streak, calico, etc.

Other provisions refer to the inspection of potatoes, oilseeds, fumigation or disinfection treatments, importation by airplane, etc. A certificate of phytosanitary inspection is annexed to the Order.

Dahir of 2 June 1950 (*B.O.*, N° 1967, 7 July 1950, p. 906) amends Dahir of 20 September 1927 relative to sanitary regulations for plants, by authorizing every official charged with sanitary inspection, to order disinfection or fumigation when he notes the presence of plant parasites or when the plants, packing or fruits may carry dangerous parasites not reveal-

ed or not revealable by inspection. Disinfection or fumigation is effected at the owner's risk and at his expense.

NORWAY

■ An Order of the Ministry of Agriculture dated 23 February 1950 (*N.L.*, N° 11, 7 March 1950, p. 293) contains provisions relative to the control of *Contarinia bizi* Winn. The cultivation of all varieties of peas is prohibited during the year 1950 in order to prevent the spread of this midge. An exception is made in the case of sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus* L.). All peas grown in opposition to the provisions of the Order will be destroyed at the expense of the growers.

SWEDEN

■ Royal Decree N° 84 of 24 March 1950 (*S.F.*, N° 84-85, 29 March 1950, p. 135) subjects to the authorization of the Department of Agriculture the importation of certain species of fruit trees and shrubs, in view of phytosanitary control. Permits are required for apple, plum, pear and cherry trees, blackberry, raspberry, hazel and gooseberry bushes, stocks of fruit trees of the genera *Cydonia*, *Malus*, *Pyrus* and *Prunus*.

Authorization is not required for commodities in transit.

(7) Stockbreeding

ALGERIA

■ Order of 3 July 1950 (*J.O.A.*, Part. 1, N° 55, 11 July 1950, p. 1006) temporarily authorizes, notwithstanding Article 1, para 2 of the Decree dated 27 June 1921, the slaughter of ewes under 5 years and not with lamb.

FRANCE

■ An Order of 3 June 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 133, 5 and 6 June 1950, p. 6055) adds the custom-house of Dieppe to the list of custom-houses of France authorized to receive pedigree breeding horses, cattle, sheep and pigs imported free of duty, under the conditions laid down by Order of 22 October 1949.

MOROCCO

■ Order dated 8 June 1950 (*B.O.*, N° 1965, 23 June 1950, p. 826) supplements Order of 20 April 1948 relative to the sale of feedingstuffs, by adding to Article 7 the following paragraph: 'However, the oilcakes can only be sold if accompanied by a waybill indicating their chemical composition and, in particular, their protein and fat content. These data must also figure on the invoices'.

(m) Livestock sanitary regulations

GERMANY

■ The Decree of 1 April 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 4, 12 April 1950, p. 33) relative to the importation of slaughtered pigs from Denmark, abrogates beginning 1 May 1950 the Circular Order of the Minister of the Reich, III b 2084/43 II - 4050 of 13 May 1943, and enforces the provisions of para 6 of the executive dispositions D concerning the meat inspection law of 29 October 1940 only permitting the importation of pig half carcasses from Denmark if all in one piece with head and hoofs.

A Decree of 3 May 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 8, 12 June 1950, p. 76) refers to the cutting up of pigs which have died from swine erysipelas.

LUXEMBOURG

■ In consequence of the Ministerial Order of 20 July (*M.L.*, N° 41, 28 July 1950, p. 1036) horses imported from Belgium will no longer require the certificates of origin and health prescribed by the Grand Ducal Decree of 7 June 1948, relative to the enforcement of the Law of 29 July 1912, on livestock sanitary regulations.

IV. - ECONOMICS AND MARKETS

(a) Trade agreements

EGYPT

■ A Decree of 3 June 1950 (*J.O.E.*, N° 56, 5 June 1950, p. 3) enforces the extension of the provisional trade agreement between the Kingdom of Egypt and the United Kingdom and North Ireland of 5 and 7 June 1930. The extension was arranged by an exchange of letters on 14 February and 6 March 1950.

Another Decree of the same date (*Ibid.*, p. 4) enforces the extension of the provisional trade agreement between the Kingdom of Egypt and the Government of Ireland of 25 and 28 June 1930, arranged by an exchange of letters on 20 and 21 March 1950.

SWITZERLAND

■ A Codicil to the trade agreement of 27 January 1923 between Switzerland and Italy was concluded in Berne on 14 July 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 35, 14 September 1950, p. 835). The Codicil which became provisionally operative on 15 July 1950 for the period of one year, will come definitively into force

on the exchange of the instruments of ratification depending on observance by both contracting parties of the rules of procedure laid down in the constitutions of the two countries. List A appended to the Codicil indicates the import duties in Italy, and list B the import duties in Switzerland. Special supplementary provisions are given in the Protocols annexed to the Codicil referring, *inter alia*, to oranges and tangerines, Swiss cattle, Swiss and Italian cheeses, etc.

(b) Frontier trade

GERMANY

■ An Order of 27 June 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 9, 30 June 1950, p. 86) regulates the trade in agricultural produce in the frontier zones.

(c) Exportation and importation

ALGERIA

■ Order dated 8 July 1950 (*J.O.A.*, Part 1, N° 56, 14 July 1950, p. 1030) codifies the texts relative to the transport and holding of flours and middlings from soft wheat and hard wheat. The transport and holding of flours and middlings from soft and hard wheats can only be effected in sealed bags, provided with a guarantee docket, made of strong material and differing in colour according to the quality of the product. Special denominations are given to each grade of flour and middlings and must be noted on the guarantee docket on which should also be written 'legal extraction rate'.

DENMARK

■ Order N° 155 of 1 April 1950 (*L.T.A.*, N° 16, 5 April 1950, p. 255) contains provisions relative to the export of cheese. Home-produced cheeses cannot be exported without special permission from the Minister of Agriculture and only by wholesale merchants approved by the Minister or by dairies and manufacturers in the case of their production. In every case consignments of cheese for export must be accompanied by a certificate testifying that the maker of the cheese contained in the consignment has obtained the approval of the Minister of Agriculture.

FRANCE

■ A Decree of 30 May 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 131, 3 June 1950, p. 5993) opens the custom-house of the Dinart air-port (Ile-et-Vilaine) to the importation and transit of fresh fish from non-French fisheries, livestock and animal products.

Order dated 21 June 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 147, 22 June 1950, p. 6640) authorizes, subject to the production of the certificate of origin and special release permit,

the import of dessert and confectionery groundnuts, in the shell or hulled, of the 1949-50 season from territories of the French Union. Authorization is also given for the offering for sale and sale, for direct consumption, of dessert groundnuts in the shell or hulled, and their utilization as raw material, after appropriate treatment, in food industries other than the oils and fats industries.

SWITZERLAND

■ Ordinance of 12 May 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 16, 22 May 1950, p. 419) contains new import and export regulations.

The Swiss Federal Council, considering the Federal Decree of 14 October 1933 on measures of economic protection, amended in 1939 and extended in 1948, has prescribed that the Department of Public Economy be charged with drafting measures to regulate imports and exports, to be submitted to the Federal Council. If the Council decides that a special permit will be required for the importation of certain commodities, the Department of Public Economy may ordain exceptions or limit the application of the measures taken to goods imported from specific countries and fix the quotas for the granting of import licences in regard to certain commodities and to certain countries. In general, the quotas are fixed for a whole year. The 'Import and Export Service' substitutes for the 'Import Service' in regard to the delivery of the special permit required for imports.

To obtain the import licence certain general rules specified in the Ordinance have to be observed.

The same regulations are applicable by analogy to exported commodities which require an export licence.

By Order of the Federal Council dated 16 May 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 16, 22 May 1950, p. 416), taken by virtue of Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Federal Council dated 13 April 1933 extending assistance to dairy farmers, etc., the exportation of certain cheeses (numbers 98a to 99b 3 on the customs tariff) requires a permit from the Agriculture Division of the Department of Public Economy. The licence is only delivered to persons and undertakings engaged professionally in the cheese trade and established on Swiss customs territory, provided that the delivery of these licences conforms to the Federal prescriptions governing the utilization of milk, the provisioning of the country and the establishment of reserve stocks, as well as the provisions laid down by the professional associations with respect to guaranteeing of the price of milk, improvement of quality and in general the regulation of the market for milk and dairy products. On issuing the licence a tax of 2 per 1000 of the customs value will be levied.

A licence is not required for occasional consignments, not commercial and not exceeding 5 kg. in weight.

An Order of the Federal Council dated 30 May 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 18, 1 June 1950, p. 486) prohibits the exportation of wheaten and rye flour and bread without the special permit granted by the Grain Administration.

Ordinance dated 31 May 1950 of the Federal Department of Public Economy (*Ibid.*, p. 488) lays down the conditions required for delivery of export licences for flour and bread granted by the Grain Administration. Licence is only granted if the applicant can prove that it is not for flour the price of which has been reduced nor for a product made from such flour. On granting of the licence a tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the value of the goods, estimated at the frontier, is levied. On the other hand, the granting of this licence does not dispense with the obligation to conform with the other prescriptions relative to exportation, particularly as regards payment with abroad.

(d) Customs duties

BELGIUM

■ An Order of the Regent dated 27 June 1950 (*M.B.*, N° 180, 29 June 1950, p. 4976) establishes that during the period 1 July to 31 December 1950 the import duties on oranges, tangerines and lemons, etc. will be levied at a reduced rate.

EGYPT

■ A Decree of 25 June 1950 (*J.O.E.*, *Extra*, N° 65, 26 June 1950, p. 1) modifies the customs duties on certain commodities. Among these commodities may be mentioned preserved milk and cream; whole or divided fruits and fruit pulp, preserved plain or with sugar and vinegar; machines and motors for agriculture and horticulture, especially cream separators.

Another Decree of the same date (*Ibid.*, p. 5) modifies the ad valorem duty on imported commodities, in particular, preserved milk, wheat, spelt and maslin, maize, fruits, legumes and berries, and plants and parts of plants used for dyeing and tanning, animal fats (beef, mutton suet, etc.) for industrial use, spermaceti, fish oils and fats for industrial use, etc.

FRANCE

■ Order of 17 May 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 118, 18 May 1950, p. 5484) modifies the scale of import duties. The commodities affected by this change include trout, sparring and other salmonids; seedless currants, saffron, barley, oats, carob fruits, edible fats, wines, etc.

SWITZERLAND

■ Order of the Federal Council dated 22 July 1950 (*R.L.F.*, No 28, 27 July 1950, p. 704) modifies the customs tariff of 8 June 1921, particularly for grapes, almonds, olives, capers, walnuts and hazelnuts, tomatoes, saffron, pimentos, dried figs, salami, gorgonzola, stracchino, fontina, bel paese, parmesan, lodigiano and reggiano cheeses, candied peel, wine and must, cork, etc.

(e) Egg market

GERMANY

■ An Order dated 27 May 1950 (*MBL*, No 4, 12 April 1950, p. 36) regulates the egg market in the Länder of Baden, Rhineland, the Palatinate and Württemberg-Hohenzollern and in the Bavarian district of Lindau, defining and marking the different grades and selling conditions. The grades of eggs subject to marking are as follows: (1) Fresh German eggs whose characteristics are defined in para 4 of the Order marked clearly with the word 'Deutsch' and the letter A, B, C or D corresponding to grading according to weight (A, 60-65 g., B, 55-60 g., C, 50-55 g., D, 45-50 g.); (2) High-grade eggs which do not meet all the requirements specified in the aforesaid para 4, to be marked 'aussortiert'; (3) Eggs cold-stored at a temperature below 8°C., meeting the specifications in para 6, marked in the centre with a large K; (4) Preserved eggs, preserved by chemical or other means, as under para 7, marked with the word 'konserviert'. These markings have to be made with black indelible ink, resistant to cooking and not containing any substances injurious to health. The Order also establishes the type of packing for the different grades of eggs and the limiting rules governing marking and the apparatus required. It also designates the professional organizations (specified in para 13) charged with verifying egg quality according to the directives of the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forests. Paragraphs 19, 20 and 21 contain the penalties to which contraveners are liable.

Order of 28 May 1950 (*MBL*, No 4, 12 April 1950, p. 38) regulates the egg market in the Länder of Baden, Rhineland-Palatinate, Württemberg-Hohenzollern as well as in the Bavarian district of Lindau, specifying the methods of verifying and inspecting egg quality and the periods when this verification and inspection should take place.

(f) Conditioning, quality control and standardization

ALGERIA

■ An Order of 5 August 1950 (*J.O.A.*, Part 1, No 64, 11 August 1950, p. 1100) establishes the new rate

of standardization dues on citrus fruits in behalf of the 'Office Algerien d'Action Economique et Touristique (OFALAC)', increasing the dues from 10 fr. to 25 fr. per gross quintal.

DENMARK

■ Order No 307 of 24 June 1950 (*L.T.A.*, No 36, 10 July 1950, p. 658) contains measures relative to the inspection of fresh home-grown fruit for export. These fruits are subjected to technical inspection for quality. Fruit cannot be exported without permission from the Ministry of Agriculture and exporters are required to conform to the conditioning and inspection rules laid down in the Order. In addition, it behoves the State Office for plant protection to exercise at all times close supervision on fruit exports from the standpoint of phytosanitary control.

Regulation No 308 of 24 June 1950 (*Ibid.*, p. 661) contains provisions relative to the sorting, grading, parcelling and packing of fresh domestic fruits intended for export as according to the above-mentioned Order. The Regulation ensures strict inspection of exported fruit as regards both quality and packing. In the case of apples and pears, very specific rules regard the different grades, with prohibition to use the name of grades other than those prescribed by the Regulation. Other provisions concern the dimensions of the packing-cases and the phytosanitary control to be effected by the Plant Protection Office.

FRANCE

■ Decree No 50-1053 of 24 August 1950 (*J.O.*, No 205, 30 August 1950, p. 9336) contains provisions relative to the conditioning of the roots and powders of rotenone-yielding plants.

To be accepted for exportation and importation in the territories under the jurisdiction of the Ministry for Overseas France, and for importation into France roots and powders of rotenone-yielding plants indigenous to or originating in these territories, must conform to the rules laid down by the Decree with respect to definition and qualities, packing, marking of the packs, inspection, sampling, etc.

SWITZERLAND

■ An Order of the Federal Council dated 17 August 1950 (*R.L.F.*, No 32, 24 August 1950, p. 807) contains provisions with a view to ensuring quality control of pomaceous fruits. This control is compulsory in the domestic trade in indigenous dessert and cooking fruit (apples and pears), when 2,000 kg. gross weight or over are transported in one lot. It

devolves on the supplier or consignor or, if the fruit is obtained from the grower, on the buyer to verify the quality. All consignments should be accompanied by a verification report and the packing-cases should be marked to show the quality of the fruit contained therein. A fee is charged to cover the cost of control.

Order of the Federal Council dated 29 August 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 33, 31 August 1950, p. 815) authorizes the Excise-office for spirituous liquors to take measures for the utilization of the 1950 crop of pomaceous fruits. The Order considers measures relative to the reduction in brandy production, by promoting the processing of surplus fruit into easily preserved products, supplying this fruit to persons in need, and new methods of utilization. The Excise-office is also authorized to take measures to encourage the use of dessert fruit. Distillation of pomaceous fruits is to be restricted as long as it is possible to utilize the fruit in other ways.

(g) Fats and oils

NORWAY

■ Order of 1 April 1950 (*N.L.*, N° 17, 21 April 1950, p. 372) contains provisions relative to the trade in oils and fats. The sale or transfer of herring or whale raw oils is made subject to authorization of the Price Office, to the refineries approved by the same Office. Likewise, all sale or transfer or delivery of raw or refined vegetable fats or oils by the oil-mills requires, unless otherwise decreed, permission from the Food and Rationing Department.

(h) Teas and tea mixtures

FRANCE

■ Decree N° 50-571 of 18 May 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 121, 21 May 1950, p. 5603) modifies the Decree dated 7 October 1932 containing the public administrative regulation for the application of the Law dated 1 August 1905 on the suppression of fraud in the sale of commodities and adulteration of foodstuffs in the case of coffee, chicory and tea. The modifications concern mixtures of teas of different production and quality and the sale of preparations of medicinal plants sold under the name of tea.

(i) Sugar

GERMANY

■ The Federal Council has edicted the Law of 18 April 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 6, 15 May 1950, p. 54) intended to amend and amplify the Law dated 26 September 1938 establishing the excise dues on sugar, on the basis of the Law of the Control Council N° 30

of 20 June 1946. This Law fixes the new dues on sugar, except starch sugar, beet sugar, syrups, beet juice and other solutions of beet sugar as well as mixtures of these products containing under 70 per cent. sugar in the dry matter. The various beet juices having a sugar content of 70 to 95 per cent. and starch sugar containing over 95 per cent. dextrose are taxed at the rate indicated in the Law. Syrups titrating less than 74 per cent. dextrose in the dry matter and containing 1.5 per cent. salt are exempt from duty.

(j) Wines

EGYPT

■ Decree of 25 June 1950 (*J.O.E.*, N° 65, 26 June 1950, p. 7) fixes a consumption tax on beverage and dessert wines imported from abroad in conformity with the excise dues on wines of local production. This consumption tax will be levied jointly with the customs duties.

SWITZERLAND

■ An Order of the Federal Council dated 30 June 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 24, 30 June 1950, p. 618) modifies, with regard to wines, the Ordinance of 26 May 1936 which regulates the trade in foodstuffs and various staple products. The amendments concern, in particular, admixture with grape juice, blending, designation of 'Swiss white wine' or 'Swiss red wine', unmixed foreign wines, cellar handling, etc.

(k) Coffee stocks

SWEDEN

■ By Royal Decree N° 36 of 24 February 1950 (*S.F.*, N° 36, 24 February 1950, p. 45) all coffee merchants are required to submit to the Food Commission a written statement of the stocks of coffee held at the end of February 1950, also adding the requisite information on the formation of stocks. The Food Commission has been authorized, *inter alia*, to draw up the forms for these statements, and to fix the date for their return.

SWITZERLAND

■ Order of the Federal Council dated 16 August 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 31, 17 August 1950, p. 799) contains measures with a view to ensuring the establishment of coffee stocks. To this end, licences for the importation of coffee are only issued to firms which are bound by contract to establish a permanent reserve stock, designated as such, of green coffee and to share in the replacing of the stocks of unroasted coffee of the Confederation.

(1) Price fixing and control

(i) cattle and beef

FRANCE

■ By Order of 3 June 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 132, 4 June 1950, p. 6017) the prices of beef cattle and beef and veal can be freely discussed, as from 5 June 1950, between the buyer and the seller, both at the production centre and at all stages of distribution.

(ii) coffee

ALGERIA

■ Order of 27 February 1950 (*J.O.A.*, Part 1, N° 18, 3 March 1950, p. 316) fixes the prices of coffee. The fixed maximum selling price of roasted coffee from roasters to wholesale merchants is calculated from the sum of the following items: (1) cost of raw material; (2) cost of materials used for conditioning and packing; (3) factory margin expressed in absolute value; (4) percentage of selling price. With a view to ensuring the application of the prices calculated as above, every roaster is required to justify his selling price. In order to establish the fixed maximum selling prices of green and roasted coffees to retailers and to consumers, maximum margins, production tax not included, have been fixed in the following proportion per net quintal of coffee: 1,200 francs in the case of sale to retailers by wholesalers or roasters; 3,000 fr. in the case of sale by retailers to consumers.

MOROCCO

■ An Order of the Secretary General of the Protectorate dated 30 June 1950 (*B.O.*, N° 1968, 14 July 1950, p. 938) repeals, as from 1 July 1950, the Order of 25 February 1950 fixing the maximum price of coffee. Beginning from the same date the price of coffee (green or roasted) is no longer subject to homologation.

(iii) milk and butter

GERMANY

■ Order PR N° 1/50 of 27 January 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 2, 25 February 1950, p. 21) based on para 2 of the Law on prices of 10 April 1948, 3 February 1949, 21 January 1950, in connection with Article 129 of the Constitutional Law, fixes for the territory of the German Federal Republic the fixed maximum selling prices as follows: (1) for whole milk with 2.8 per cent. butterfat, 36 Dpfg per litre at the sale-

store; (2) for fresh skim milk and buttermilk for human consumption, a price not to exceed half of the price paid for the corresponding whole milk; (3) for skim milk and buttermilk to be returned to the producer for stockfeed, 5 Dpfg. In addition, the same Order establishes the fixed maximum wholesale and retail selling prices for the different grades of home-produced butter, wholesale: DM 520 to DM 468 per 100 kg., retail: DM 541 to 489 per 100 kg.; for supply (minimum 25 kg.) to the consumer in bulk by dairies or wholesalers, DM 550 to 498, and by retailers, DM 564 to 512; for packed or unpacked butter sold to the consumer, DM 584 to 532 per 100 kg. These prices apply to domestic butter having a fat content of at least 80 per cent, and not more than 18 per cent. water.

Order PR N° 25/50 of 11 May 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 7, 31 May 1950, p. 70), supplementing Order PR N° 1/50 of 27 January 1950 on the prices of milk and butter, regulates the equalization of the seasonal fluctuations in the prices of butter.

Order PR N° 26/50 of 11 May 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 7, 31 May 1950, p. 70) relative to the prices of butter, fixes the seasonal reductions to be applied to the price of German selected butter, dairy and farm butter.

(iv) eggs

SWITZERLAND

■ In partial substitution of the prescriptions of 5 April 1950, the Federal Price Control Service has decreed new provisions on 17 May 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 12, 22 May 1950, p. 470) relative to the maximum prices of eggs. By virtue of these provisions, the price to be paid by importers for taking over the eggs of national production was raised to 22 centimes per egg as from 19 May 1950.

New regulations of the same Service dated 29 June 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 23, 29 June 1950, p. 608) raised the price to be paid for the taking over of national produced eggs to 24 centimes per egg, effective from 30 June 1950.

The price was increased to 26 centimes per egg from 1 September 1950 in accordance with the instructions of the same Federal Price Control Service on 31 August 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 33, 31 August 1950, p. 830).

(v) grapes

SWITZERLAND

■ The Price Control Service issued instructions on 3 September 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 34, 7 September 1950, p. 832) relative to the price of home-produced table grapes valid for the 1950 season, that is, from 5 September to 31 December 1950.

GERMANY

■ Order PR N° 15/50 of June 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 8, 12 June 1950, p. 79) contains provisions relative to the prices of beet sugar and cosettes in the Länder of Baden, Rhineland-Palatinate, Württemberg-Hohenzollern and the Bavarian district of Lindau.

V. - STATISTICS

GERMANY

■ A second Order for the application of the Law on the census of agricultural holdings in Federal territory, dated 27 February 1950 (*MBL.*, N° 3, 18 March 1950, p. 25) decides, with the approval of the Federal Council, that a census of tractors and rotary tillers be taken, as supplement to the general census of agricultural holdings, in the agricultural, silvicultural and horticultural holdings owning or using rotary tillers or tractors.

SWEDEN

■ Royal Decree N° 96 of 24 March 1950 (*S.F.*, N° 96, 3 April 1950, p. 155) contains provisions relative to the particulars to be supplied with a view to the enumeration of pigs and hens on 17 April 1950. All holders of pigs and hens are required to furnish particulars on the number of stock possessed on 17 April 1950. They must also give exact figures on the stocks of eggs held at the same date. Information must be submitted to the Emergency Committee of each commune or in its absence, to any other competent State body.

Royal Decree N° 136 of 28 April 1950 (*S.F.*, N° 136, 3 May 1950, p. 235) contains provisions relative to the collection of data for the official agricultural statistics of the Kingdom. It devolves on the rural management associations to supply the necessary particulars on crop forecasts and crop yields. The data collected by the associations will be checked by the competent authorities and, if necessary, supplemented. The Central Statistics Office and the Department of Agriculture will draw up the forms to be filled in for the collection of data and the preparation of reports.

VI. - FORESTRY

BELGIUM

■ Order of the Ministry of Agriculture dated 5 August 1950 (*M.B.*, N° 231, 19 August 1950, p. 5900) modified the Ministerial Order of 20 May 1948, estab-

lishing a poplar sub-commission called 'National Poplar Commission', attached to the Forestry and Forest Products Advisory Committee.

FRANCE

■ Law N° 50-597 of 30 May 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 129, 1 June 1950, p. 5882) institutes Article 320 *bis* and modifies Art. 434 of the Penal Code, by establishing that when a fire caused involuntarily brings about the death of or causes injuries to one or more persons, the penalties inflicted for manslaughter and injuries due to negligence will be applied. On the other hand, in all cases when fire caused intentionally has entailed the death of one or more persons or injuries or infirmities involving permanent disablement, the death penalty will be enforced.

Decree N° 50-868 of 25 July 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 176, 26 July 1950, p. 7967) modifies Art. 2 of the Decree dated 3 March 1947 (see this *Bulletin*, 1947, p. 80) regulating the application of Law dated 30 September 1946 setting up a national forestry fund. The maximum amount of cash subventions which can be granted is fixed by the new Art. 2 as follows: at 50 per cent. of the total expenditure incurred on account of afforestation and re-afforestation operations, forestry equipment, or for the purchase of material for forest protection against rodents; at 80 per cent. of the total expenditure incurred for the purchase of material and equipment required for pest control; and at 90 per cent. in the case of requisites purchased for fire control. However, the subventions granted to one and the same proprietor on account of afforestation or re-afforestation operations cannot exceed 100,000 francs.

ITALY

■ Presidential Decree N° 566 of 30 May 1950 (*G.U.*, N° 184, 12 August 1950, p. 2330) concerns modifications in the features and imprint of range hammers used in the State forest administration.

LUXEMBOURG

■ An Order of 10 July 1950 (*M.L.*, N° 40, 20 July 1950, p. 1016) establishes that forestry accounting and national forest statistics shall no longer be carried out by the Land Management Service but by the Department of Woods and Forests.

VI. - FISHERIES

ALGERIA

■ An Order of 21 July 1950 (*J.O.A.*, Part 1, N° 59, 25 July 1950, p. 1066) establishes dues for the benefit of the 'Organisation professionnelle des Pêches

Maritimes' ('Comité Central Interprofessionnel des Pêches Maritimes', regional and local committees). The dues are imposed in the form of a tax of 5 fr. per kg. of fresh fish imported from France, Morocco and Tunisia, and as a contract tax per fishing vessel or industrial enterprise according to a schedule fixed by the Order.

Order of 14 August 1950 (*J.O.A.*, Part 1, N° 66, 18 August 1950, p. 1130) enforces Resolution N° 50-056 of the Algerian Assembly tending to prohibit the use of the ring-net in the territorial waters of Algeria.

DENMARK

■ Law N° 154 of 31 March 1950 (*L.T.A.*, N° 16, 5 April 1950, p. 253) contains provisions relative to the granting of loans to encourage the sale of fish and fish products. The Danish Government, in order to promote the sale of fish and its products, has allowed for a credit of 500.000 crowns in the budget for the financial year 1950-51. This sum is to be allocated in the form of loans to Danish enterprises engaged in the processing of and trade in fish and fish products. These loans should be employed for the purchase of new machines, industrial or trade equipment, transport requirements, etc.

Loans may be granted to undertakings already in operation or else for the establishment of new enterprises. Detailed provisions regulate the procedure to be followed to obtain loans, the amount of same, terms and conditions of reimbursement, etc.

GERMANY

■ A Decree dated 30 January 1950 (*MBL*, N° 2, 25 February 1950, p. 18), following a former Order relative to the enforcement of the Law on fisheries statistics, and based on para 7 of this Order, fixes as follows the stations for fishery returns and the competent offices to which landings have to be reported: for the port of Bremen, the Development Company of the fishing port of Bremen; for Cuxhaven, the salt-water fish market association; for Kiel, the salt-water fish market association of Kiel; and for Hamburg-Altona, the fish market association of Hamburg-Altona; for the reporting of landings in German ports of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea, other than those also already nominated, the competent fishery offices for landing points; for the reporting of catches made by German companies for herring fishing in the open sea, the national statistics office of Wiesbaden-Biebrich; for the reporting of the quantity of fish landed directly after the catch is made at foreign ports by German vessels, the State Statistics Office; for the declaration of catches made in Lake of Constance and landed di-

rect in German territory, the custom-houses of Constance, Lindau and the Police Headquarters in Friedrichshaven.

An Order of 28 April 1950 (*MBL*, N° 8, 12 June 1950, p. 75) based on the emergency law for fishing in the high seas, dated 16 March 1950 (*BGBL*, p. 44) establishes reduced prices for coal from the State mines used in steam fishing vessels operating on the high seas.

NORWAY

■ Royal Resolution dated 14 April 1950 (*N.L.*, N° 17, 21 April 1950, p. 387) regulates the production and sale of cod during the spring fishing. The Fisheries Department is authorized to prohibit the salting or sale for direct consumption of cod landed during the spring fishing season in the waters of Finnmark. The regulations of the Fisheries Department will establish the date of entry into force of the interdiction in question, its duration and the zone of application.

PORTUGAL

■ Decree N° 37-874 of 3 July 1950 (*D.d.G.*, 1st Series, 3 July 1950, p. 39) replaces the different *ad valorem* rates of the fishery tax by one single rate of 7 per cent.

SWEDEN

■ Royal Decree N° 248 of 9 June 1950 (*S.F.*, N° 247-249, 15 June 1950, p. 409) prohibits the exportation of certain species of fish of national production without authorization of the Agriculture Commission. Quantities exported which do not exceed five kg., however, do not require a permit.

VIII. - RURAL WELFARE

(a) Domestic re-equipment aid

BELGIUM

■ Order of the Regent dated 30 May 1950 (*M.B.*, N° 155, 4 June 1950, p. 4460) contains provisions relative to the enforcement of the Law of 21 January 1950 extending to agricultural workers the benefit of domestic re-equipment aid (see this *Bulletin*, 1950 N° 1, p. 63).

The Order specifies the categories of beneficiaries and the conditions to be fulfilled to obtain domestic re-equipment aid.

(b) Annual holidays with pay

LUXEMBOURG

■ Law of 27 July 1950 (*M.L.*, N° 41, 28 July 1950, p. 1032) regulating annual holidays with pay of wage-earners, establishes in Article 2 that a public administrative regulation will determine the right to holidays of wage-earners working in agriculture, horticulture, forestry and viticulture.

(c) Agricultural mutual insurance

FRANCE

■ Order of 30 May 1950 (*J.O.*, N° 129, 1 June 1950, p. 5879) institutes an Agricultural Mutual Insurance Medal. This medal is exclusively reserved for persons who participate or have participated in the establishment, administration, control or management of agricultural mutual insurance society, and for per-

sons who render or will have rendered services to the benefit of agricultural mutual insurance.

(d) Cheese-makers

SWITZERLAND

■ An Order of the Federal Council dated 17 July 1950 (*R.L.F.*, N° 28, 27 July 1950, p. 695) establishes the standard employment contracts for workers in country cheese-dairies (cheese workers). This standard contract is valid for the entire territory of the Swiss Confederation and is applied from 1 November 1950 to the conditions of work of the workers employed in rural cheese-dairies and in village dairies which make cheese during at least four consecutive months per civil year. The standard contract contains provisions relative to the obligations and rights of the cheese worker, meal intervals, rest periods and holidays, wages, lodging, loans in the case of illness and accidents, termination of contracts and individual disputes concerning the employment contract, etc.

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